

CONFIDENTIAL]

[No. 32 of 1895.

REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 10th August 1895.

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Nil.			

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
BENGALI.					
<i>Tri-monthly.</i>					
1	"Abodh Bodhini" ...	Calcutta	... About 677		
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Banganivasi" ...	Ditto	... " 5,000	2nd August 1895.	
2	"Bangavasi" ...	Ditto	... " 20,000	3rd ditto.	
3	"Hitaishi" ...	Ditto	... ".....	6th ditto.	
4	"Hitavadi" ...	Ditto	... " 4,000	2nd ditto.	
5	"Mihir" ...	Ditto	... ".....		
6	"Sahachar" ...	Ditto	... About 500	31st July 1895.	
7	"Samay" ...	Ditto	... " 4,000	2nd August 1895.	
8	"Sanjivani" ...	Ditto	... " 3,000	3rd ditto.	
9	"Som Prakash" ...	Ditto	... " 800	5th ditto.	
10	"Sudhakar" ...	Ditto	... " 3,000		
<i>Daily.</i>					
1	"Banga Vidya Prakashika"	Ditto	... " 200		
2	"Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika."	Ditto	... " 200	4th to 8th August 1895.	
3	"Samvad Prabhakar" ...	Ditto	... " 500	2nd and 6th to 8th August 1895.	
4	"Samvad Purnachandrodaya"	Ditto	... " 200		
5	"Sulabh Dainik" ...	Ditto	... " 1,000	1st to 3rd and 5th to 7th August 1895.	
HINDI.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Bharat Mitra" ...	Ditto	... " 800	1st August 1895.	
2	"Hindi Bangavasi" ...	Ditto	... " 9,000	5th ditto.	
3	"Uchit Vakta" ...	Ditto	... ".....	3rd ditto.	
<i>Daily.</i>					
1	"Dainik Bharat Mitra" ...	Ditto	... ".....	2nd to 4th and 6th August 1895.	
PERSIAN.					
1	"Hublul Mateen" ...	Ditto	... ".....	31st July 1895.	
URDU.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide."	Ditto	... About 400	1st August 1895.	
2	"General and Gauhariasfi"	Ditto	... " 300	31st July 1895.	
BENGALI.					
<i>Fortnightly.</i>					
1	"Bankura Darpan" ...	Bankura	... " 500	1st August 1895.	
2	"Ulubaria Darpan" ...	Ulubaria	... " 298		
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Burdwan Sanjivani" ...	Burdwan	... 350 to 400	30th July 1895.	
2	"Chinsura Vartavaha" ...	Chinsura	... " 600	4th August 1895.	
3	"Darsak" ...	Ditto	... ".....	4th ditto.	
4	"Education Gazette" ...	Hooghly	... " 754	26th July and 2nd August 1895.	
BENGALI.					
<i>Monthly.</i>					
1	"Ghosak" ...	Khulna	... 350		
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Murshidabad Hitaishi" ...	Murshidabad	... 280	31st July 1895.	
2	"Murshidabad Pratinidhi" ...	Berhampore	... 200		
3	"Pratikár" ...	Ditto	... 608	2nd August 1895.	

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
URIYA.					
<i>Monthly.</i>					
1	" Brahma "	Cuttack	.....	June 1895.	
2	" Indradhanu "	Ditto	.....	
3	" Shikhabandhu "	Ditto	.....	
4	" Utkalprabha "	Mayurbhunj	3		Only six copies have been issued since the paper was revived in January 1894. Some 200 copies of each issue are said to have been circulated, but no subscribers have been registered.
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	" Samvad Vahika "	Balasore	190	20th and 27th June and 4th July 1895.	
2	" Uriya and Navasamvad "	Ditto	309	19th and 26th June and 3rd July 1895.	
3	" Utkal Dipika "	Cuttack	412	23rd and 29th June and 6th July 1895.	
4	" Sambalpur Patriot "	Bamra in the Central Provinces.	.....		This paper is said to have some circulation in the Division, but the number of subscribers could not be ascertained.
HINDI.					
<i>Monthly.</i>					
1	" Bihar Bandhu "	Bankipur	500		
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	" Aryavarta "	Dinapur	1,000		
URDU.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	" Akhbar-i-Al Punch "	Bankipur	500		
2	" Gaya Punch "	Gaya	400		
3	" Mehre Monawar "	Muzaffarpur	150	29th July 1895.	
BENGALI.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	" Bagura Darpan "	Bogra	.....	
2	" Hindu Ranjika "	Boalia, Rajshahi	283		
3	" Rangpur Dikprakash "	Kakina, Rangpur	300	31st July 1895.	
HINDI.					
<i>Monthly.</i>					
1	" Darjeeling Mission ke Masik Samachar Patrika."	Darjeeling	150	.....
BENGALI.					
<i>Fortnightly.</i>					
1	" Kasipur Nivasi "	Kasipur, Barisal	280	30th July 1895.	
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	" Charu Mihir "	Mymensingh	900	30th July 1895.	
2	" Dacca Prakash "	Dacca	450		
3	" Saraswat Patra "	Ditto	250	3rd August 1895.	
4	" Vikrampur "	Lauhajangha, Dacca	500	1st ditto.	
ENGLISH AND BENGALI.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	" Dacca Gazette "	Dacca	500	5th August 1895.	
BENGALI.					
<i>Fortnightly.</i>					
1	" Tripura Prakash "	Comilla	.....	
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	" Sansodhini "	Chittagong	120	First fortnight of Sravan (B.S.) 1302.	
BENGALI.					
<i>Fortnightly.</i>					
1	" Paridarshak-o-Srihattavasi "	Sylhet	.....	

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

THE *Hitavadi* of the 2nd August has the following:—

Ill-treatment of a daroga in Patna. A daroga of the Patna police having been late one day in presenting himself at the parade, the Assistant Superintendent of Police, Mr. Brown,

abused him and struck him with a whip in the presence of the constables. The daroga was not allowed to note this in the diary book, and was taken to the Assistant Superintendent's office and detained there under police surveillance. On the District Superintendent arriving at the thana, an enquiry was held by that officer, the Assistant Superintendent, and the City Inspector, and the daroga was suspended.. It is hoped that an enquiry will be made into the matter.

2. A correspondent of the same paper draws attention to the oppressions which are being committed by Cabuli *badmashes* in the 24-Parganas district.

Cabuli *badmashes* in the 24-Parganas district. The men are robbing people openly by day and night, and yet the police cannot bring the offenders to justice. They have become so daring because they managed to escape scot-free after beating some policemen on one or two occasions.

3. The *Sanjivani* of the 3rd August has the following regarding the conduct of Babu Haris Chandra Thakurta, Sub-Inspector of Police in the Jamalpur subdivision of the Mymensingh district:—

Babu Harish Chandra Thakurta is the Sub-Inspector of the Jamalpur subdivision of the Mymensingh district. Of the many pranks he has played in Jamalpur within a very short time, we cite here only a few in the hope that they will be soon put a stop to by the Government.

When Babu Ambika Charan Banerji was the Sub-Inspector of Jamalpur, he prosecuted Durgatia Shaikh and others under section 283 of the Indian Penal Code. The evidence against the accused having been of an unsatisfactory character, the trying Deputy Magistrate acquitted all of them. But Babu Harish Chandra Thakurta, who just then joined the Jamalpur subdivision, did not like to see the accused thus acquitted, and hit upon a plan to get the case retried. He got the file of the case from the *peshkar*, penned through the name of a witness cited in the case, put down the name of another person in its place, and then returned the file. He next applied to the Deputy Magistrate for a retrial of the case on the ground that all the witnesses whose names were cited in the "A" form had not been examined. The Deputy Magistrate referred to the *peshkar*, who was under the conviction that all the witnesses had been examined, with the exception of one who could not be summoned because his address was not known. When the *peshkar* referred to the file of the case, however, he was surprised to see that the name of the witness who had not been examined, was penned through, and in its place the name of another person put down in the Sub-Inspector's hand-writing. The *peshkar* at once reported the matter to the Deputy Magistrate, and the Sub-Inspector had no other alternative than to make a clean breast of his guilt. But, strange to say, the Sub-Inspector was not taken to task for this heinous offence, and is still kept in the Government service.

Some time after the above occurrence the same Sub-Inspector, acting under the provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code, ordered Natu Malanga and two others to appear before him and explain their conduct in connection with a bad livelihood case. One Ramdayal Gazia, a chaukidar, was empowered to serve the said three persons with the Sub-Inspector's order. The police complained that Natu forcibly took the Sub-Inspector's order from the chaukidar, assaulted him and turned him out of his house. Three other men who were present on the occasion were also charged with aiding and abetting Natu in the commission of the offence. This case was tried by the Deputy Magistrate of Jamalpur. Before the trial the Sub-Inspector had the accused arrested and brought to the police-station, where, however, they were set at liberty. A few days after this the Sub-Inspector sent up the accused for trial, and reported in the "A" form that they had decamped and made themselves scarce. The

HITAVADI,
Aug. 2nd, 1895.

HITAVADI.

SANJIVANI,
Aug. 3rd, 1895.

accused denied the charge of the Sub-Inspector, and said that the latter had demanded from them Rs. 50 as an illegal gratification, but as they had no money with them at that time, they were set at large in order to procure it. But as no money was forthcoming after all, a false charge was entered against them in the "A" form, and they were sent up for trial. The allegations of the accused were all proved in court, as appears from the judgment of the Deputy Magistrate. The judgment runs as follows:—

RAM DOYAL GAZIA, CHAUKIDAR,

versus

NATOO SEK AND THREE OTHERS.

Sections 353 and 379 of the Indian Penal Code.

This case has been sent up by the police under sections 379 and 353 of the Indian Penal Code. The case for the prosecution seems to be that the Sub-Inspector of Police, Jamalpur, had given a *hukumnamah* to the complainant, a chaukidar, to produce some men before him for an investigation of a bad livelihood case. That the chaukidar came to the house of Molenga, one of the accused, and there were all the other three accused. That Natoo Sircar took off the *hukumnamah* by force, and the other three men helped him; that they all abused the chaukidar and drove him off. I say the case seems to be this because there is great difference between the first information and the evidence of the chaukidar recorded before me. The accused all of them plead not guilty, and say that the chaukidar had given the paper to Natoo Sircar to read, and demanded something as gratification from Molenga; that Natoo Sircar told him that he could claim nothing, and the complainant came away annoyed and took the Daroga there immediately after, and the *hukumnamah* was produced as soon as demanded. As I have already stated there is great difference between the complainant's *ejahar* before the police and his deposition here. In the first information it is stated that accused Natoo took the paper by force and would not return it, and the other three men helped him. He now says *hukumnamah* had been given to the man to be read and he declined to give it back, and that the other three men did nothing. The man goes to the length of saying that he does not know how the Daroga Babu has sent up the case, but that he did not accuse the three men, Molenga, &c., before him. One of them, Kobir Sircar, he calls his witness. It must be ascertained whether the chaukidar then spoke the truth or is now speaking the truth. From the evidence of the witnesses and the circumstances of the case, it seems clear that he has now spoken the truth. It is quite probable that he would be gained over by the accused and conceal the truth to save them, but the case shows the other way.

I examined the Sub-Inspector of Police, who visited the spot immediately after the occurrence and sent the case up, and I regret to observe that his conduct seems to be inexplicable in many points in this case. He has evidently given many evasive answers in cross-examination. He cannot say where the *ejahar* was taken. Certainly it is that he had sent the chaukidar in advance to procure the attendance of some men for an investigation, and on coming to the village learnt from the chaukidar that his purwana (*hukumnamah*) had been taken and was not returned. But where the *ejahar* was taken, the Sub-Inspector seems to evade. He did not take it on horseback. He came to the house and took the *ejahar* he says, but he does not notice that the *hukumnamah* had been returned or recovered, though he says it was recovered. He goes on to say that it was recovered after the *ejahar* had been taken, but that does not fill in well. He went after the accused, as soon as he heard from the complainant, and instead of enquiring about the *hukumnamah*, the subject matter of the theft, he sat patiently recording the *ejahar*. It seems to me no *ejahar* had been recorded at the time at all, and the chaukidar says so. Again, the Sub-Inspector would not admit that the man Natoo had been tied down, but he seems to have been, and all the witnesses admit it. Further, the accused were brought to Jamalpur and not sent up, and the Sub-Inspector says that he kept the case pending for the defence of the accused. The case admitted no defence. If he was sure theft had been committed and the chaukidar obstructed or assaulted, he must have been satisfied on

these points in the village on the spot, and the most natural course for him would have been to hear the defence there; but what does he do! He submits a "C" Form in the case that the accused had absconded. One is driven to the conclusion that the case is not *bond fide*; that there had been no written *ejahar* at the time the accused Natoo was tied down and sent to Jamalpur. No doubt I think verbal information was enough, but why should the Sub-Inspector hesitate to speak what he had done. He is not sure whether he examined a witness after submitting his "C" Form or before doing so.

I can therefore place no reliance on the *ejahar* in this case, and must accept the testimony of the witnesses, and this seems conformable to the circumstances of the case. Very probably the accused Natoo had got the *hukumnamah* to read, and then told the chaukidar that the men summoned by it would appear with it. This appears from the deposition of Banshi. The accused declined to return it though asked to do so. I think this is a theft of very technical nature. The defence argues that this was no theft, as there was no dishonesty, but I think there was, though it was very small. The paper had some value, and to the chaukidar it had much. He wanted to return it to the Sub-Inspector perhaps. Accused would not return it. For that a very small fine would meet the case of Natoo. About the other accused there is not the slightest evidence, and I really cannot understand how the Sub-Inspector could send them up. Really a mountain has been made of a mole-hill in this case. It would be dangerous to hold that any man could take a paper from a public servant to see and then decline to return it without being liable to punishment, and hence I punish the accused Natoo.

Accused Natoo convicted of an offence under section 379 of the Indian Penal Code, and is sentenced to pay a fine of Rs. 5 (five), in default of payment of which he will suffer simple imprisonment for five days. The other three accused are all discharged under section 253, C. P. C.

CHANDRA SEKHER KEE,

Deputy Magistrate.

The 27th February 1895.

It is quite clear from this judgment that the case was got up by the Sub-Inspector simply to wreak his vengeance upon the accused, who did not pay him the gratification he demanded. It strikes one as quite strange that the Sub-Inspector did not send up the accused for trial as soon as they were arrested, but released them after the arrest, and afterwards reported against them in the "C" Form. The authorities should enquire why the Sub-Inspector arrested the accused on a frivolous charge got up by himself, and why he released them soon after the arrest was made. The charge of demanding illegal gratification should also be carefully inquired into.

Here is another instance of the Sub-Inspector's high-handedness. Some time ago he prosecuted a boy of the name of Lalit Chandra Das, an inhabitant of Haripur, a village in the Jamalpur subdivision, for not giving information to the police about the death of his grandfather, Subal Chandra Das. The accused proved that his grandfather died before his father was married. The Deputy Magistrate acquitted the accused and demanded an explanation from the Sub-Inspector. It appears that the Sub-Inspector is bent upon oppressing the people, and it is not advisable for the Government to postpone an inquiry into his conduct.

Yet another instance. Some time ago, the Sub-Inspector charged one Chandra Khansama of Mohirankol (a village in the Jamalpur subdivision), with keeping and using a gun without a license, and prosecuted him under section 19 of the Arms Act. It transpired during the trial that Govinda, the brother of Chandra, used to keep a gun. It is three years since Govinda died, and he had disposed of his gun before his death. The accused has, therefore, been acquitted.

Four or five more instances of the unlawful conduct of the Sub-Inspector of Jamalpur have come to our notice. But we need not multiply instances. The instances we have already cited will be sufficient to prove our case against the Sub-Inspector. That such a corrupt and oppressive police officer is allowed to remain in his post is a discredit to the Government.

SANJIVANI,
Aug. 3rd, 1895.

4. The same paper regrets to observe that the natives of India are not allowed to compete for the posts of Superintendents and Assistant Superintendents of Police. These posts are the monopoly of the Europeans.

The superior posts in the police service.

Not all Europeans, however, are allowed to compete for these posts but only such as are previously nominated by the Lieutenant-Governor. This means that these posts are reserved for the worthless relations of Europeans high in Government service. The course of study prescribed for the Superintendentship and Assistant Superintendentship examinations, is, however, very easy; it is easy enough for a candidate for the First Examination in Arts of the Calcutta University. While this is the case where Europeans are concerned, in the case of the examination for the Police Sub-Inspectorship, in which natives alone are concerned, the course prescribed is not very easy. No one who has not passed the Entrance Examination of the Calcutta University is entitled to compete for the Police Sub-Inspectorship. Can the Government expect to see the confidence of the people in its impartiality and uprightness kept intact when it studiously observes a distinction between natives and Europeans in almost every walk of life?

SULABH DAINIK,
Aug. 7th, 1895.

5. The *Sulabh Dainik* of the 7th August says that the Calcutta river police seem to take no notice of those offending boatmen who carry more than the prescribed number of passengers. These men sometimes carry as many as twenty passengers at a time.

The river police and the over-crowding of boats on the Hooghly.

6. The *Tripura Prakash* for the first fortnight of Sravan complains that the town chaukidars of Brahmanbaria do not keep watch at night. They spend the night at the houses of their kept mistresses, where they associate with *badmashes* and assist in the procuring of intoxicating drugs and spirits during prohibited hours. On account of their intimacy with the *badmashes*, the latter are becoming more rampant. If the authorities had a sharp eye on the chaukidars, they could not behave in this way. The local Subdivisional Officer and the District Superintendent of Police are requested to attend to the matter.

(b)—*Working of the Courts.*

CHARU MIHIR,
July 30th, 1895.

7. The *Charu Mihir* of the 30th July says that a man named Madan Mohan Das entered the District Judge's Court in Mymensingh as an apprentice, and is now serving as a copyist in that Court and as muharrir to the Civil Court Amin, Babu Kailas Chandra Chakravarti, and is drawing pay from both places. The writer would like to know under what rule one man is allowed to fill two different posts, and on what grounds a copyist has been thought competent for the post of muharrir to a Civil Court Amin. The fact is that jobberies like the above have for a long time been going on in the appointment of ministerial officers in the Civil Courts in the Mymensingh district. It is hoped Mr. Anderson, the present District Judge, who has already given proof of uprightness in several matters, will put down these jobberies.

The writer has heard that one Madan Mohan Basak was sometime ago dismissed from the Registry Office in Dacca. An enquiry ought to be made as to the identity of this man with Madan Mohan Das.

CHARU MIHIR.

8. A correspondent of the same paper, writing from Jamalpur in the Mymensingh district, says that the Deputy Magistrates in charge of subdivisions being now-a-days almost wholly occupied with the trial of cases under sections 107, 109 and 110 of the Penal Code, more important cases have for the most part to be heard by Honorary Magistrates. This is one reason why great care should be taken in the choice of men for filling the honorary benches. The writer would put the following questions in connection with the contemplated honorary bench at Dewanganj:—

- (1) Are the people of Dewanganj generally in favour of a bench, or has the proposal come from some particular designing person?
- (2) Supposing that the proposal has come from the residents generally, why are they so anxious to get an honorary bench, when

villages containing educated, patriotic and more respectable residents do not want benches and wish to avoid being appointed Honorary Magistrates? Besides, what is the number of Dewanganj men fit to be appointed Honorary Magistrates?

- (3) Have those people who are willing to be appointed Bench Magistrates had a hand in the making of the proposal?
- (4) Have they asked for a bench from a disinterested motive, or with the object of lording it over their fellow villagers?
- (5) Have the residents in general any confidence in the promoters of the scheme?
- (6) Are any machinations on foot in the village for securing Honorary Magistracies?

9. The *Sahachar* of the 31st July says that the punishment of dismissal from service inflicted on Fordyce is looked upon by the public as a very light punishment for the offence he committed. Babu Trailokya Nath Mitra, late Subordinate Judge of Gaya, was dismissed from service, though the Commission which was appointed to enquire into the charge of corruption brought against him only suspected from the evidence brought forward that he may have taken bribes. The public were not dissatisfied at the action taken by Government in that case, because they want a judicial officer to be, like Caesar's wife, above suspicion. Mr. Fordyce did not take bribes secretly; like a dacoit he committed oppression in order to extort money. And though he was given every opportunity to prove his innocence, a favour which was not shown to Trailokya Babu, he was found guilty by the Commission. Still he has been punished only with dismissal. The Lieutenant-Governor has acted wrongly in treating Mr. Fordyce leniently. It is leniency which will encourage corrupt officers.

10. The *Bharat Mitra* of the 1st August says that the English officials are in the habit of showing partiality to the English men and English women who are charged with crimes. Mrs. Lester confessed before the Court that she had murdered her husband, and yet she was sentenced only to 10 years' rigorous imprisonment, while one Ambika Dasi who stood charged with having murdered her husband was sentenced to be hanged, although the jury gave a verdict of not guilty.

11. Mr. Carey, says the *Sulabh Dainik* of the 2nd August, is a young man, but he is placed in charge of an important subdivision like Sirajganj. In Sirajganj, near the Magistrate's house, there are extensive corn-fields through which Mr. Carey is in the habit of taking his daily ride. The Magistrate's ride does very great injury to the corn, but the peasants suffer their loss in silence. One day, while the Magistrate was riding through a *kakai* field, one Anu, a peasant working in the field, asked the Magistrate not to ride through the field and do injury to the ripe corn. On the Magistrate insisting on riding, Anu remonstrated with him, when Mr. Carey told him who he was. Anu, who did not evidently know that he was remonstrating with the Magistrate himself, took to his heels as soon as he came to discover his mistake. But the Magistrate did not spare the poor peasant. He had him arrested and handed him over for trial to the Deputy Magistrate, Babu Charu Chandra Chatterji. The Deputy Magistrate, the "conduit pipe" of the Magistrate, held that the Magistrate's ride did not do any harm to the corn, convicted Anu, and sentenced him to rigorous imprisonment for two months. The prisoner appealed to Babu Kedarnath Roy, the District Judge, who held that Mr. Carey had trespassed into the field and done injury to the corn, and the prisoner had every right to oppose him in defence of his property. He therefore acquitted the prisoner and set him at liberty. But if the *Sanjivani* is right, the prisoner was detained in jail for a few days notwithstanding the order of the District Judge setting him free. Is the Government aware of the wrongful conduct of the Sirajganj Magistrate? Why does Mr. Carey ride through corn fields when there is a public road to ride along? Has the Government no idea of the hard labour which it costs the raiyats to grow their corn and the great pain with which they naturally look upon any injury which is done to it? If

SAHACHAR,
July 31st, 1895.

BHARAT MITRA,
Aug. 1st, 1895.

SULABH DAINIK,
Aug. 2nd, 1895.

the poor peasant, exasperated by the conduct of Mr. Carey, had given him a sound thrashing instead of taking to his heels, what could the Government have done? Of course, Mr. Carey would in that case have been promoted and the peasant made to rot in jail. Magisterial high-handedness is ever on the increase, and if it is not checked in time, there is every probability of the oppressed people taking the law into their own hands.

HITAVADI,
Aug. 2nd, 1895.

The Rajbala case.

12. The *Hitavadi* of the 2nd August has the following remarks on the result of the Assensole case:—

We are not at all astonished at the miscarriage of justice in this case, because such failures are not uncommon at the hands of English jurors when the accused are their own countrymen. But we regret Cowley's discharge, because, upon a perusal of the evidence recorded against him, which is evidence enough in a case like this, we have been thoroughly convinced of his guilt, and know that the man not being a railway servant, cannot, like the other accused persons, be even departmentally punished. The court and the railway authorities both believed the story of Rajabala having been outraged by four brutal fellows; but no one has addressed himself to the question, who were the perpetrators of the crime if the persons tried were not. What we fear from the result of the case is that the fact of the escape of the offenders might encourage others who may be similarly disposed. It is also a great pity that a woman, no matter what her previous character and social position might have been, has been thus publicly outraged under British rule, and the offenders have escaped scot free. D'Souza has absconded, but he, too, would have been acquitted by the English jurors if he had not.

13. The *Sulabh Dainik* of the 3rd August has the following observations on the Rajabala case:—

The Rajbala case.

Everybody must be aware by this time that Rajabala is a destitute woman. There can be no doubt about Rajabala's existence, because she was present in court in flesh and blood. The day is not yet come when, in spite of such palpable evidence, English jurors would deny her existence, and say that she was not a woman, but a man disguised like a woman, and that her complaint was false, and when the Judge would have to accept that verdict. But neither will that day be long in coming. But in the present case, Rajabala's existence was proved, and it was also proved that she had been travelling by rail, the fact of her having lost her ticket and not having it in her possession has also been taken as established. The ticket collector, a Eurasian, finding no ticket with her, made her over to the custody of a chaukidar, and afterwards took her to his own quarters. Why was she taken to the ticket collector's room, and not to the station-master? What do the jurors say to this? But it is enough that they have not denied the very existence of Rajabala.

The complainant and the witnesses identified the four accused Eurasians. The doctor's testimony proved that outrage had been committed upon the girl, and the evidence of other witnesses clearly proved the offence. How then could the jury hold the accused innocent? Perhaps in arriving at their verdict they took note only of the hardship which the accused persons would suffer if they were pronounced guilty, and wholly disregarded the case of the poor unfortunate complainant. When the accused got acquitted in a clear case like this, who will ever expect to see the accused in similar cases punished?

From the very beginning of the trial, D'Souza is said to have absconded. But how long can an accused person hide himself in British dominions? If the man had been a native, process after process would have been issued for his arrest, and the police would, by this time, have brought up many innocent persons as the accused. Is the Government showing D'Souza mercy because he is a saheb? But if the offenders in this case are not brought to justice, it will be difficult for people to travel by rail and keep their honour inviolate. The very men who have been acquitted, will take to committing fresh oppressions.

The Judge who heard the case surely understood it thoroughly, or he would not have acquitted one of the accused. But did he find anything in the evidence to rebut the conclusion that though this accused man may not have himself committed the outrage, he probably helped others to do it. Is not abetting an offence? There was strong presumption that he was guilty of this

SULABH DAINIK,
Aug. 3rd, 1895.

at least. Babu Brajendra Nath Seal ought to have sent the case of this man, too, to the High Court, if he wanted to do strict justice in the case.

14. The *Sanjivani* of the 3rd August observes that notwithstanding the vaunted equality of the British law in India, there

SANJIVANI,
Aug. 3rd, 1895.

The white and the black offender in the British law court in India.

is a distinction studiously maintained by the Indian courts of law between a white and a black offender.

The writer compares the case of Mrs. Lester with

that of Ambikom Dhubji. In the latter case the prisoner was charged with the murder of her husband, and the Sessions Judge of Puna, who tried the case, sentenced her to death. From the examination of the witnesses, it was gathered that Ambikom's husband kicked her one night, and she retaliated by striking him severely in the head on the following night. This brought about the death of the poor husband. The Sessions Judge did not believe that the prisoner had been given any provocation, and while giving his charge to the jury, observed that the prisoner had concealed many facts in order to make her offence appear less serious. The jury returned a verdict of "guilty," and the Judge, agreeing in the verdict, sentenced the prisoner to death. Mrs. Lester killed her husband under similar circumstances and under far less provocation. She was, however, sentenced to imprisonment only for ten years. What a contrast between a black and a white offender!

15. The same paper learns from the *Darjeeling Standard* that some time ago

Trial in the complainant's private chamber.

a European lady prosecuted a native before the Magistrate of Darjeeling. The Magistrate, most probably out of a chivalrous regard for the lady, held

the trial in her own private chamber. The result of the trial is not yet known, but may one ask, was this a public trial or a mere travesty of it? Was this trial made in earnest or in joke? Where is the procedure which justifies the trial of the case in the complainant's own house? The European Magistrates in India have played many pranks, but this beats the entire record. Even the *Darjeeling Standard*, a paper conducted by Europeans, cannot help condemning the conduct of the Magistrate. In future, the European Magistrate will most probably not even observe the formality of a trial, and whenever a European lady will complain against her servant or any other native, the Magistrate will adopt the summary method of personally chastising the accused in the complainant's presence. To try a case in the complainant's house may not be against the law, but it is certainly against the dignity of the law and its impartial administration. Trials like the above are increasing in number, and one is led to fear lest they should become the order of the day. Will the Government make an endeavour to know whether the Magistrate tried the case alone or allowed pleaders and others to appear before him? It will be also highly interesting to know if the Magistrate was entertained with a light repast in the complainant's house.

16. The same paper also makes the following observations on the Sessions

The Rajbala case.

trial of the Assensole case:—

When an Englishman is charged with the murder of a native, the English jury declare him "not guilty;" and the white murderer is acquitted even if he confesses his guilt. But we value chastity above life. And Englishmen who deprive a native woman of her priceless virtue are also acquitted. We must say that the consequences of this will prove disastrous to the Government. We can bear to see our countrymen killed by Europeans like cats and dogs, but we cannot bear to see our women deflowered by Europeans blackguards with impunity. If the Bengali nation is not dead, it should try to have its wrongs righted. At least an attempt should be made in right earnest to see if there is any remedy in this country for this growing evil. The High Court should be moved, and an effort made to have the case retried, if possible. If a Bengali had insulted a European lady, one would have heard the Englishman thundering out in anger and indignation. Four Europeans commit a brutal assault upon a helpless Bengali girl, but the Bengalis thunder not.

17. The *Bangavasi* of the 3rd August has nothing to say against the

The Rajbala case.

result of the Assensole trial, as it was conducted in strict accordance with law and procedure. But just think of the whole affair for a moment! In a principal railway station frequented by a large number of people, a ghastly crime is committed, but the

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BANGAVASI,
Aug. 3rd, 1895.

whole case is going to fall through. This may not do harm to the dignity of the law, but it does not certainly maintain the dignity and prestige of the Government.

TRIPURA PRAKASH,
for the first fortnight
of Sravan, 1802B.S.

18. The *Tripura Prakash* for the 1st fortnight of Sravan has the following :—

How evidence is recorded.

HOW EVIDENCE IS RECORDED.

To

THE EDITOR OF THE TRIPURA PRAKASH.

SIR,

The administration of civil and criminal justice in the country has often been discussed by the public and by the press, and indeed a great deal of good has come out of such discussion. Vagaries and high-handedness of particular officers have been exposed and censured by the press as the exponent of public opinion, and in the majority of cases they have received suitable notice from the authorities. It is in the hope that the appearance of the following facts in your columns would remedy the shortcomings of certain Munsifs and Deputy Magistrates of this district and with a view to secure the confidence of the parties who may have occasion to seek justice at their hands, that I have been induced to ask you to make room for this correspondence in your columns.

Old days are gone, and now-a-days Munsifs, Deputy Magistrates, and Sub-Deputy Magistrates are selected from the graduates of the University who have received a liberal English education; the public therefore reasonably expect that they discharge their duties on the Bench carefully and conscientiously. Whenever, therefore, any fact showing a wilful breach or disregard of a conscientious performance of judicial duty on the part of any such officer is brought to light, it pains the public mind very much. Complaints of a serious nature have often been heard against some of the Munsifs, and particularly against certain Deputy Magistrates of this district, who, it is said, do not correctly and completely record the evidence of witnesses in appealable cases in which a higher tribunal has to form its opinion on the merits by perusal of the depositions recorded by the Lower Courts. Any officer trying a case is of course quite at liberty to decide it according to his own individual opinion formed at the trial by hearing the evidence given by witnesses examined before him, but from this it by no means follows that he is equally at liberty to record the evidence of witnesses in a manner which he considers as conformable to his own opinion of the merits of a case, especially if it is an appealable one. This reluctance in recording the evidence correctly and completely is due to the fact that such officers form an opinion of the merits of a case by hearing the evidence of one or two witnesses for the party beginning, though it is but just and proper that no such opinions should be formed till the trial is concluded. Such Deputy Magistrates and Munsifs should bear in mind that parties suffer a good deal by their omission to record the evidence completely, and that, however strong their own opinions they may consider, they may yet be erroneous, and that it is but fair and just that their judgments should be tested by higher tribunals with more experience, in order that the just rights and liabilities of parties may be determined. They should not be actuated by a desire to have their judgments confirmed in appeal, but they should always bear in mind that they do not deprive the appellate courts of the advantage of deciding cases by having a *complete* and an *accurate* record of the *whole* evidence given by witnesses *while under examination*.

With regard to *appealable* cases, both civil and criminal, the law as to how evidence should be recorded is given in section 182 of the Code of Civil Procedure, and in sections 356 and 359 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. As regards *non-appealable* cases, sections 189 and 355 of the two Codes say that only a memorandum of the substance of the evidence of each witness is to be made. Reading the above provisions of the law together, it appears at once clear that while in non-appealable cases the law requires a Munsif or a Deputy Magistrate to record the substance of the evidence of each witness in the form of a memorandum, and that consequently he has the option to select which statement of a

witness he would record and which he need not record, the law has not given him similar option with regard to appealable cases in which it is his *legal duty* to record completely *all* relevant statements made by each witness. The law has *not* given him a *power of selection* of what *he considers* "important" or "unimportant," but it *requires* him to record *accurately* and *completely* each *relevant* statement made by a witness before him in the trial of an appealable case in which he has *no power* to select between important and unimportant answers, only if they are relevant; it is therefore his plain duty to record every relevant statement, *not partly*, but *fully* and *accurately*. If therefore any Munsif or a Deputy Magistrate intentionally omits to do this duty, he may be regarded not only as unprincipled and unscrupulous, but as guilty of framing an incorrect record.

It is not at all difficult to make out the object the law-makers had in view in enacting the above provisions for recording evidence in appealable cases. The only thing aimed at was to afford an aggrieved party an opportunity to have his just rights or liabilities determined by a superior court by placing before it the *whole* evidence given by each witness in the court of first instance. Non-compliance with the above provisions of the law, whether it be from negligence or from a desire to make a superior court to arrive at the same conclusion, is not only a violation of duty, but it is often very injurious to the parties, in that the superior court cannot find on record all the statements made by each witness, and thus it becomes impossible to arrive at correct conclusions. To bear out my statements I shall cite two instances out of many. A certain Deputy Magistrate of this place,—I shall not name for the present who he is—had an interchange of hard words between himself and the pleader for defence for recording evidence fully and correctly. Although his attention was repeatedly drawn to the fact, to the utter surprise and regret when the copy was taken it was found that the Deputy Magistrate not only wilfully omitted to record several important statements made by the witnesses, but affixed to the bottom of each deposition, a certificate purporting that the deposition was read over to the witness, although in point of fact it was not so. What would you think of such a man?

Sometime ago the records of a few cases tried by a Munsif of this district were shown to a Sub-Judge by a pleader. The cases were conducted before the Munsif by pleaders of recognised intelligence and established reputation. The Sub-Judge was surprised to find that, while the examination-in-chief of each of the witnesses occupied about two pages, the cross-examination of each was recorded in 3 or 4 lines only, a fact from which it at once became patent that the whole of the cross-examination of each witness was not completely recorded! How is it that the records of evidence in cases tried by a Munsif are voluminous, while those in exactly parallel cases tried by another Munsif of the same place are scanty and meagre, though the same set of pleaders conducted the examination of witnesses in those cases before those Munsifs? Does this not show that one of them records the evidence carefully and completely, while the other does it not?

But the matter does not rest here. The same Munsifs and Deputy Magistrates against whom the above complaint has been frequently heard, are also alleged to be in the habit of systematically noting at the bottom of depositions *false* certificates, to the effect that the evidence was read over to the witness and was acknowledged as correct, though as a matter of fact it was never read over at all. What are we to think of such Deputy Magistrates and Munsifs, who are all graduates of the University? Does this not show how unscrupulous and unprincipled they are? Can such men command the confidence of the parties who have the misfortune to have their cases tried by them? If they can write out *false* certificates of the kind referred to above, it is difficult to say what they are not capable of.

To ensure the correctness and completeness of the record of evidence in appealable cases, provisions have been made in sections 182 and 360 of the Codes of Civil and Criminal Procedure respectively, to the effect that as soon as the evidence of each witness is completed it *shall* be read over to the witness *in the presence* of the parties, or their pleaders, or muktears, so that any error or omission may be corrected, if necessary. This is a salutary provision of the law, in that it has been intended not only for the protection of witnesses against

charges of perjury, but also for the benefit of the parties who may point out any error or omission in the record of evidence, and if necessary, have the same corrected then and there.

Now, can ignorance of this salutary provision of the law stand of this legal duty be pleaded in the defence of those of the Deputy Magistrates and Munsifs who are in the habit of annexing to depositions false certificates of the kind mentioned above? The fact that they do not themselves read over or interpret the evidence, nor cause the same to be read over or interpreted, coupled, with the fact that they are always particularly careful to append such certificates to the deposition, shows beyond doubt that they are well conversant with the above provision of the law, and consequently they are aware of the necessity of reading over or interpreting the evidence. They know full well that it is their duty to have the evidence read over or interpreted to the witness, but as they neglect to do it, they, with a view to conceal their negligence from their superior officers, append such false certificates to the depositions, and play deception upon them by making them believe by the insertion of such certificates that the evidence was correctly and completely recorded! Thus they are doubly guilty. In the first place they are guilty of wilful neglect of legal duty, and in the next place they are guilty of committing fraud and deception upon their superior officers.

Unless evidence of witnesses be read over, especially in the *presence* of parties or their legal advisers, they cannot know whether the evidence has been properly and completely recorded. Pleaders and muktears conducting cases before unscrupulous Munsifs and Deputy Magistrates of the type described above should draw their attention to the above sections of the two Codes, and most strongly insist upon them to have depositions read over or interpreted to each witness in order that any error or omission may be detected and corrected before the next witness is called to the box, and by this a great deal of evil may be avoided.

I must take this opportunity to state that among the Munsifs and Deputy Magistrates of this district there are many who are as careful and conscientious as could be desired; it must therefore be distinctly understood that the remarks and observations made herein do not apply to them, but to those *only* against whom the above complaints have been frequently heard from gentlemen of position and respectability.

In conclusion, I desire to add for the information of your readers that at present it is not my object to endeavour to put into trouble those Munsifs and Deputy Magistrates who have been systematically neglecting their duty, described above, but I would give them time and opportunity to correct and reform themselves; and should I find that the publication of this correspondence in your columns is without any effect on them, and that they still adhere to the abovementioned objectionable practices, I would give out their names in a future one, and ask the authorities, through the medium of your columns, to hold an enquiry into their conduct.

Yours faithfully,

WARNING.

 Our correspondent is a man of position, and he speaks from authority. He has brought to light a nefarious practice which, of late, has become a public scandal; it is a subject of vital interest to the public as well to the Government, and we shall resume it in our next.

E. T. P.

(d) — *Education.*

19. In continuation of the criticism on the *Manimanjari*, the *Hitavádi* of The *Manimanjari*. the 2nd August has the following:—

Rule 90 says:—

“ ১০ । আদেশপ্রভাবায়াবিচয়কেভ্যঃ সস্য ব্রঃ পদ্মযশ্যে ।

ইচ: রুকান্নার্থ কক্ষাল্প পরম আদেশজ্ঞাতস্য অভ্যর্থাবন্বস্য চ সকারুস্য ষ: স্যাঁ ॥”

That is, the **ন** of a substitute (আদেশ) or that forming part of a *pratyaya*, when following ইচ, ককার and রকার, is changed into a **ষ**. But the author says nothing about the conversion into a cerebral of the **ন** of an augment (আগম). Under what rule does he then spell the word পরিকার, given as an example to rule 236, with a **ষ** and not with a **ষ**?

The *Manimanjari* lays down no rule about the declension of the stems দ্বিতীয় and তৃতীয়. Is it to be assumed then that they follow the example of the stem নৰ in all the cases? Every other Grammar, however, says that each of the stems দ্বিতীয় and তৃতীয় forms two words in the singular number of each of the cases dative, ablative and locative. Are the stems দ্বিতীয় and তৃতীয় of so rare occurrence in literature as to justify Nilmani Babu's omission of their declension in his Grammar?

The following rule occurs on page 43:—

“ ১১১। উদ্ভো বস্ত্য সুরান্নঃ অথ পঞ্চকে।
উকারেত্ত: শুকারেত্ত অস্ত্যস্তরাং নকারাদেশঃ স্যাঃ ॥”

That is, *pratyayas* which have their final উ or শ্ব omitted, take the substitute অ after their final vowel. Here the অ should have been called an augment (আগম) and not a substitute (আদেশ). But as Nilmani Babu prefers to call it a substitute, let us see what form the stem গচ্ছৎ takes in the dual number of the nominative case. The stem গচ্ছৎ is derived by adding the *pratyaya* শ্ব to the root গম্ব. The *pratyaya* শ্ব retains only the part অ, and as its শ্ব is omitted, the *pratyaya* অ, whose final vowel is অ, will have, by Nilmani Babu's rule, the letter এ after অ, replaced by অ. The word derived in the dual number of the nominative case is therefore গচ্ছন্তো and not গচ্ছন্তি, which, as everybody knows, is the correct form.

20. Referring to the recent publication in the *Calcutta Gazette* of the

The two successful B.A. candidates. names of two successful B. A. candidates, the *San-
jivani* of the 3rd August observes that their success
is due to hard canvassing and the support of a
member of the Syndicate.

SANJIVANI,
Aug. 3rd, 1895.

21. The same paper observes that Mr. Shaw has been appointed to officiate temporarily for the Principal of the Hooghly College, as if there were no one else in the Education Department fit to serve in that capacity.

A jobbery in the Education Department. Another jobbery of a similar nature has been recently perpetrated. In the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 9th July appeared a notification, appointing Babu Muralidhar Ray Chaudhury, M.A., to officiate for Mr. Shaw as the Head-Master of the Apprentice Department of the Sibpur Engineering College. But in the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 31st July a notification was published, cancelling the previous arrangement, and appointing Mr. P. W. Byers temporarily to the Head-Mastership of the Apprentice Department, and appointing Babu Muralidhar to officiate for Mr. Byers. What is there in Mr. Shaw which qualifies him for the post of the Principal of the Hooghly College, and why is Mr. Byers promoted over the head of Babu Muralidhar? There is already a distinction observed in the Education Department between a native and a European in respect of pay. Is a distinction also to be made in the matter of promotion? As the Director has not respected seniority in the case of Babu Muralidhar, he would have done better if he had promoted one of the Professors of the Hooghly College to officiate for the Principal. If Sir Alfred Croft goes on riding his hobby in this way, no good man will in future enter the Education Department. But it seems that the Director can do without talent or ability in a Professor or a Principal.

22. The same paper also complains against the conduct of the Deputy

The Deputy Inspector of schools, Kamrup. Inspector of Schools, Kamrup, who treats teachers and schoolboys with scant courtesy, calls them stupid, and always keeps teachers standing before him.

SANJIVANI.

SANJIVANI,
Aug. 3rd, 1895.

23. The same paper has also the following:—

At the last anniversary meeting of the Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science, its Secretary, Dr. Mahendra Lal Sircar, requested the Lieutenant-Governor to encourage the institution by "showing preference to candidates for Government service requiring a knowledge of science if they can show certificates of having passed through full courses of instruction at the Science Association." Dr. Sircar has grown old, but he seems to have not yet outgrown his selfishness. The scientific training which is imparted in many of the colleges in Calcutta is far superior to what passes for scientific training in the Science Association, which does not impart even a tenth of the scientific knowledge which is every day imparted to the students of the Presidency College. The scientific apparatus, which Dr. Sircar bought years ago at a considerable expenditure of public money, have now grown old and rusty and are fairly out of date. They are little used, and many of them have become damaged and quite useless under rough handling. We expected a good deal from the Science Association, but we have now been sadly disappointed. The public subscriptions, which were raised for its support, have been ill-spent. We became convinced of the total uselessness of the Association when it felt the necessity of affiliating itself to the Calcutta University. There are more than half a dozen colleges in Calcutta to impart the kind of scientific training which is required by the candidates for the University examinations, and the Science Association need not have swelled their number. There are many more useful purposes which it can turn its hand to. There are mines to be discovered and worked, plants to be examined and turned to use. There is a large field before us for scientific research and discovery—rich opportunities to turn the teeming resources of the country into wealth. But the Science Association is not good for all these purposes. Here the students do not possess even the advantage of a practical training in science. What, then, is the Science Association good for? What is there in it to recommend it to the special favour of the Government? Why should the Government show a preference to its students over those of colleges far superior to it in their arrangements for imparting scientific training?

The plain rebuff, therefore, which Dr. Sircar received from the Lieutenant-Governor was well merited. Sir Charles Elliott has many faults, but hypocrisy is not one of them. He does not hesitate to speak out the truth, however unpalatable it may be to others. In reply to Dr. Sircar's prayer, His Honour is reported to have said that "Government looked upon science as a whole and not as science connected with this Science Association." The Lieutenant-Governor was quite right. In the Science Association Hall lectures are delivered by Babu Rajendranath Chatterjee, M.A., Professor, City College, in Physical Science and by Babu Ram Chundra Dutt in Chemistry. Dr. Sircar also lectures now and then. But all these lectures do not constitute an efficient scientific training. The students who hear only these lectures cannot expect to go above the students of other colleges.

BANGAVASI,
Aug. 3rd, 1895.

24. Referring to the notification in the *Calcutta Gazette*, publishing the names of two students of the Presidency College as having passed the last B.A. Examination, the *Bangavasi* of the 3rd August would like to know the reason why their names were not so long published. If the omission was due to mistake, whose mistake was it? The University authorities ought to have cleared up all such doubts when correcting their mistake.

BANGAVASI.

The two successful B.A. candidates.

25. The same paper learns from the *Indian Daily News* that the Principal of the Medical College has recently made a rule requiring the students of all the classes to appear in class examinations, to be held every half-year, and a student failing to pass the half-yearly examination will not be allowed to attend the College lectures. The reason of making such a drastic rule is said to be to raise the percentage of successful candidates in the University examinations by getting rid of those that are not likely to pass. It is to be hoped that the Lieutenant-Governor will not allow the Principal to enforce such a drastic rule.

26. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 4th August considers it the

An order of the Principal of the Calcutta Medical College, height of *zulm* on the part of the Principal of the Medical College to order that students who do not pass the class examinations will have to leave the College. The object of this order is quite incomprehensible, if it is not to reduce the number of native doctors and increase that of European ones. As for the writer himself, he will not be sorry if the Medical College is abolished, because in that case the people will have to fall back upon the *ayurvedic* system of medicine, upon whose revival depends the real good of the country. The Medical College is kept up simply to supply the jails and public dispensaries with doctors, and the order referred to will diminish this supply and injure the interests of Government alone.

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27. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 5th August has the follow-

Sir Charles Elliott at the Science Association.—

The Indian Association for the Cultivation of

Science is one of the great achievements of Dr. Mahendra Lal Sircar. It is probable he himself considers it his greatest. But in our opinion, his greatest achievement in the domain of science is the service he has rendered to the cause of Homoeopathy—a service which, even if the Science Association had not been established, would have made his name immortal. Homoeopathy owes to Dr. Sircar more than to anybody else for its spread and advancement in this country. It is chiefly due to Dr. Sircar's exertions that it has been brought to its present elevated position in this country and occupies a well-defined and recognised *status*.

Science is the same in all countries. India is the teacher, the *guru* of Europe, even in science; but the disciple has now fairly excelled the *guru* in the cultivation of physical science, although he has not even approached him in the pursuit of spiritual science. It is Dr. Sircar's Science Association that has contributed most towards the spread of physical science in this country, and it is for this reason that it is entitled to our sympathy and support. For science is the handmaid of art, and the spread of scientific knowledge helps the growth of manufacture and industry.

The Science Association owes its existence to Dr. Sircar—to his unwearyed activity, indomitable energy, and never-failing perseverance. Dr. Sircar's zeal for scientific pursuits is almost unparalleled. He has a more than paternal affection for his Science Association. Mention only the name of his Association, and you will see his heart elated with joy, his face brightened up, and his eyes filled with tears. All these are proofs of an unparalleled devotion to science.

But the Science Association—the object of Dr. Sircar's tender solicitude, care and devotion—has not yet achieved the success which it so richly deserves. It is this thought that troubles Dr. Sircar's mind most; it gives him no rest, it robs him of his peace of mind. It is true that it is no small success which the Association has secured. It has got a local habitation and a name. It can boast of a splendid laboratory. The number of lectures delivered within its hall has increased twelve times. The number of those who attend its lectures has also increased. It has created in the mind of the Indian public a taste for scientific pursuits. It seems to be, in short, in every respect a progressive institution—an institution full of life and vigour. But still the success, the Association has gained falls far short of what is to be desired. Its progress is nothing compared with the progress of similar institutions in Europe.

This is the burden of Dr. Sircar's complaint. May the venerable Doctor be yet spared to his countrymen for many many years! But man is not immortal, and Dr. Sircar is growing old. He knows that he has but a small span of life before him, and it is his most earnest desire to do his utmost for the progress and improvement of the Science Association during the time which, it is hoped, it will be yet given to him to live. We will fail in our duty if we do not help him to gain his noble desire. The Government also will not do well to keep itself entirely indifferent.

The Aryans of old, the ancient Rishis, were untiring in their efforts to impart knowledge. At the last anniversary meeting of his Association, Dr. Sircar referred in feeling and eloquent terms to the devotion of the ancient Rishis to the pursuit of knowledge. In their names we too appeal to the men

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of science in this country, and call on them to share their knowledge with their less gifted countrymen. Teaching is a sacred duty. It brings in pleasure as well as spiritual merit. Hindu society was on the highest pinnacle of glory when the Hindu professors did not consider it beneath their dignity to live in honest poverty in order to impart knowledge for no pecuniary consideration whatever to the students who flocked to them for the noble gift.

The Science Association, however, imparts to the public a knowledge of the material sciences of the West, and the votaries of those sciences are not prepared to make the stupendous sacrifice of personal comfort, which was so common with the ancient *Rishis* and the Hindu professors of old. Hence the need of paid professors and lectures in the Science Association. This is a necessary evil, characteristic of the present age, and we must put up with it. But those who have any source of income and competence to keep themselves in comfort ought to freely lend their services to the Association. There are already many such who are glad to serve the Association as unpaid lecturers. But these men cannot evidently devote all their time and energy to the cause of the Association—to the spread of scientific knowledge. The Association wants men who shall have no other occupation than science. Science shall be their daily food, and its pursuit the one object of their life. They shall breathe science, they shall think science, they shall live and move and have their being in an atmosphere of science. And the Association shall take upon itself the task of maintaining them and their families. But where is the money to come from? The existing resources of the Association are not adequate to the purpose. The Association stands in need of more extensive public support, and this public support Dr. Sircar solicits on its behalf. We too join in his prayer and earnestly desire to see our millionaires, our Rajas and Maharajas, come forward and join themselves with men like the Maharajas of Kuch Bihar and Vizianagram and Babu Kali Krishna Thakur in their endeavour to promote the welfare of the Association by richly contributing to its fund. Dr. Sircar was visibly moved when he made his appeal to his countrymen for money. Will his eloquence, his feeling exhortation, his personal example go for nothing? Will not our rich men respond to the earnest and eloquent call? In Europe and America instances are not rare of men giving away their whole fortunes as endowments to scientific institutions, and there are there, even now, those who give away millions for the same purpose. We do not ask for millions; we do not even ask for *lakhs*. Are there not men in this country who can gladly pay a few thousand rupees for the promotion of science? Certainly there are.

But the Government should not, on its part, keep itself indifferent. It ought to substantially help the Association, and it should not shirk its responsibility in this matter. Sir Charles Elliott's speech at the anniversary meeting of the Science Association in reply to Dr. Sircar's appeal to the Government for support and encouragement, has not satisfied us. The Lieutenant-Governor proudly referred to the Government colleges and institutions where scientific knowledge is imparted, in order to show that the Government had done all it could to fulfil its responsibility in the matter. We cannot, however, agree with his Honour. We do not think that the Government colleges and institutions are doing everything for the promotion of scientific knowledge. The scientific knowledge which is imparted in the Government institutions in the mufassal, is not scientific knowledge worth the name. The scientific training available in most of these institutions is often only a make-believe for scientific instruction. In Calcutta, efficient scientific instruction is available only in the Medical College. But there all the branches of science are not taught, only those of them that have a close connection with the science of medicine receive the special care and attention of the Professors. In the Presidency College, the scientific instruction that is imparted, only fulfils the requirements of the candidates for the University examinations. No practical, matter-of-fact scientific instruction is there imparted. The object of the Science Association is more capacious, its scope more extensive. It aspires to impart a knowledge of science in all its branches. It is a national Association, it is the glory of Bengal. In Europe and America there are many such institutions which have a glorious, vigorous and useful existence. It will be to our eternal shame if we cannot maintain one single scientific institution in our midst.

The Lieutenant-Governor has practically declined to give any support to the Science Association, by saying that the Government has done all that it could in the matter of scientific instruction by making proper arrangements for such instruction in its schools and colleges. We have already seen that His Honour is not quite right. We have seen that in the Presidency and Medical Colleges alone proper scientific instruction is imparted, though that instruction too is not many-sided and comprehensive. We do not understand why the Lieutenant-Governor at all referred to the Art School and the Engineering College, as evidences of the Government's liberality in the matter of the advancement of science. The Art School has nothing to do with science, and in the Engineering College mechanical science alone is taught. If overseers and painters could be called men of science, compounders might as well be called physicians. It is therefore quite clear that it is the bounden duty of the Government to pecuniarily help the Science Association—and that all the more because it ought to feel an interest in the spread of western science in this country. If public money could be spent in laying out grounds for the athletic sports of our young men, why could it not be spent for the purpose of endowing the Science Association? If Sir Charles Elliott had possessed sincere sympathy for scientific pursuits, if there had been in him a spark of the scientific zeal of a Huxley or a Tyndall, he would not have disappointed us as he did in his speech at the last annual meeting of the Science Association.

But not only did Sir Charles Elliott disappoint us in the matter of Government's coming forward to substantially help the Science Association; he even plainly declined to extend any patronage whatever to the Association in his capacity as the head of the Local Government. In reply to the very modest request of Dr. Sircar that His Honour's Government would show some preference for the students of the Association in considering the claims of candidates for Government service, the Lieutenant-Governor observed that "the Government could not put aside the students trained in their institutions for the students trained in the Association; all that the Government could do was to select the best candidates available, irrespective of the fact where they had been educated." It is, however, a fact that the Government shows decided preference for the graduates of the Presidency College who have taken their degrees in science, the graduates of other Colleges coming off only second best in the eye of the Government. What harm is there in showing some degree of preference for those who, trained in the Government institutions, have their knowledge supplemented by a training in the Science Association? The students of the Science Association have the advantage of an instruction in science in all its branches, and their scientific attainments are therefore superior to those of the young men who are trained in other institutions. What harm is there in showing them some preference? The Royal College of Physicians in England has attained such a high and exalted position because it is patronised by the Government. We like to see the Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science placed in the same exalted position as the Royal College of Physicians in England.

28. The same paper understands that Babu Haraprasad Sastri's new book

Babu Haraprasad Sastri's History of India. on the history of India is going to be the text-book on Indian History for the candidates for the Calcutta

University Entrance Examination. Is this book a

translation of the author's Bengali work on the same subject? Babu Hara Prasad's Bengali History of India is a comprehensive work, but it labours under one great defect. In dealing with the Aryan period, the author takes theories for established truths. The conclusions and inferences arrived at by European historians in connection with the Aryan period of Indian history are no better than hypotheses. They have not been placed beyond doubt. They militate against the *Shastras*, and are not accepted by the Hindus as correct. In settling such disputed points an impartial historian ought not to be guided by the opinion of one side; he certainly ought not to take the opinions of European *savants* for gospel truth. Babu Haraprasad seems to lean very much on the side of the European *savants*. Mr. Dutt's book is not free from this defect, but even he has been at last compelled to eschew all such disputed matter as far as possible. In our opinion, as text-books on Indian History meant for the boys of our schools, must have to be kept up to the level of European opinion on the subject, they need not at all deal with the Aryan period. Boys may well be

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spared— we think, they ought to be spared—the trouble of wading through forced and farfetched inferences and hypotheses on disputed points. They can well wait to be initiated into the mysteries of the Aryan period till they are grown up and able to judge for themselves. It is not proper to make them learn things and theories which in later life they may have reason to discard as baseless and untrue.

SOM PRAKASH,
Aug. 5th, 1895.

29. The *Som Prakash* of the 5th August continues its criticism of Babu Hara Prasad Sastri's History of India in Bengali.

Babu Hara Prasad Sastri's History of India in Bengali. The book is intended for the candidates for the Middle Vernacular Examination who are too young to judge for themselves or find out mistakes in their text-books. Hence the writer's solicitude to point out the mistakes committed by Babu Hara Prasad in his book. The author has added an errata sheet to his book, but the list is not exhaustive and leaves many mistakes in the book uncorrected. Perhaps the author had not discrimination enough to discover these mistakes. The Text-Book Committee often reject books if they happen to contain a few spelling mistakes. But such is Babu Haraprasad's good fortune that his book has been recommended by the Committee even though it bristles with mistakes:—

Here are a few more mistakes to be noticed in the book in addition to those pointed out by the writer in the last issue of the paper. (See Report on Native Papers for the 3rd August, paragraph 26):—

(1) In the first page of the book the author says “সক্রান্থ উহাদের আলোচনা করা আবশ্যিক।” What is the meaning of this sentence? What does the word “সক্রান্থ” qualify? Is it an adjective qualifying the noun “উহাদের” or an adverb of time qualifying the verb “আলোচনা করা”? The word may be taken to qualify either of the two words. But the writer evidently means it to be an adverb and he ought to have written “সক্রান্থে” and not “সক্রান্থ।” This is the usage.

(2) In the same page the author defines a *sukta* (সূক্ত) as an invocation of a god by a Rishi—কৌণ্ড এবি কৌণ্ড দেবতার উদ্দেশ্যে যে ত্বর করেন তাহারই নাম সূক্ত। This is too wide a definition. All the *suktas* (i.e., *mantras* in the Rigveda) are not invocations of gods. For instance, the “দান স্তুতি সূক্ত” s i.e., *mantras*, relating to the ceremony of alms-giving are not invocations of gods.

(3) The writer further says:—“হিন্দুদিগের মতে সূক্তগুলি শ্বিগণের রচনা নয়ে; অর্লোকিক শক্তি বলে এই সকল সূক্ত উহাদের নিকট প্রকাশিত হইয়া ছিল মাত্র।” Now, how is one to parse “শক্তিবলে”? Is it related to the word “শ্বিগণের” or to the word সূক্ত or to the word “উহাদের” (understood)? The word “উহাদের” is not moreover, quite agreeable, and means some disrespect towards the venerable Rishis (শ্বিগণের), for whom it stands in the sentence.

(4) The writer observes that the Brahmans trace their origin to eight Rishis, “ব্রাহ্মণেরা আট জন শ্বিগণের বংশ হইতে উৎপন্ন বলিয়া আপনাদিগকে পরিচয় দিয়া থাকেন।” Here the writer is mistaken. His statement is evidently based on Manu. But Manu himself says that twenty-four Rishis are recognised as the ancestors of the Brahmans, although eight of them are to be regarded as the foremost. The *kuladipika* cites the names of forty-two Rishis as the ancestors (গোত্র) of the Brahmans, and among the Vaidic Brahmans many other Rishis besides the eight principal ones mentioned by Manu are regarded as their ancestors.

DACCA GAZETTE,
Aug. 5th, 1895.

30. The *Dacca Gazette* of the 5th August has the following:—

Text-books for the Entrance Examination. Pecuniary gain seems to be the guiding principle of the Calcutta University in all that it does. None but a most whimsical person could ever think of fixing as a text-book for boys of tender years a compilation so difficult as that which has been appointed text-book in English for the Entrance Examination of 1896. Mr. Tawney, it is said, is the compiler of this book. Mr. Tawney, who has had in his time to acquire foreign languages, must know how difficult and irksome that task is. The fact is that Mr. Tawney, who has never taught Entrance candidates, has

no idea of the meagreness of their knowledge of English. The compilation, indeed, contains many good things, but those things are fit intellectual food for more advanced students. One evidence of the difficult nature of the book will be found in the fact that key-makers, despairing to make their English explanations of certain passages intelligible by themselves, have added to them Bengali explanations. This they never would have done if the book had been suited to the capacities of Entrance students.

The present text-books in history and geography for the Entrance Examination have proved a veritable monster to the Entrance candidates. The two text-books on history are like two stupendous mountains, which none can hope to scale except in a heavenly chariot, and the two text-books in geography are like two vast oceans which must take years to cross. In addition to these, there is a small scientific book. Few Entrance candidates are strong enough to subdue this terrible five-headed monster.

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

31. A correspondent of the *Charu Mihir* of the 30th July says that great inconvenience is felt by passengers on account of the absence of a bridge or ferry over the Pagaria river near Kahibazar station, in the Mymensingh district. People have to swim across the river. It is hoped that the District Board will either construct a bridge or arrange for a ferry.

CHARU MIHIR,
July 30th, 1895.

32. A Bankipore correspondent writes in the *Sanjivani* of the 3rd August that the Bankipore Municipality proposes to light the town with electricity. But as the present lighting of the town is satisfactory, the municipality will do well to pay more attention to sanitation and water-supply, and to open a municipal bazar in the town.

SANJIVANI,
Aug. 3rd, 1895.

33. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 4th August has the following remarks on the verandah quarrel:—

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The verandah quarrel. A verandah was to be constructed in front of a new house, which was being built for the Viceroy's Military Secretary. An objection was taken, as the verandah was to be a three-storied verandah, and was to project over the public street. But to whom do the streets belong? In England, it is true, Her Majesty herself has to obey the municipal laws; but India is not England. Did not the *Indian Daily News* plainly say that the Viceroy must not be made to bow to any law, as he is not bound by any laws made for ordinary people? But in England such a claim cannot be made even on behalf of Her Majesty. There the very princes of the blood royal are liable to be arrested by common policemen, and the Queen herself has, on some occasions, had to pay fines for violating municipal laws. But the *Indian Daily News* knows that India is not England. Had the quarrel taken place in England, the *Indian Daily News* itself would have girt up its loins to keep the prestige of the law unharmed. In fact the Commissioners ought to have sanctioned the construction of the verandah as soon as it was proposed. But to speak the truth, the verandah was constructed before any sanction was given, neither the Chairman nor the Health Officer venturing to take any steps to stop it. It has been well for the Commissioners that they have been defeated at last. The *Englishman* says that if the Commissioners had not given in, Calcutta would have been brought under martial law, and the Commissioners brought to trial before a Court Martial, because the subject-matter of the quarrel was a house intended for the Military Secretary. It is said by some people that if Lord Elgin had known about the quarrel beforehand, he would have removed its cause at the outset. But we think that in that case Lord Elgin would have been compelled to leave India. Who does not remember Lord Ripon's case? He wanted to equalise the privileges of Indians and Europeans only in a very trifling matter, and for this he had to pay dearly.

All must now feel relieved that the town has been saved, for who knows but Calcutta would have been blown away by cannonading if the Commissioners had not yielded. It is to be hoped that the Commissioners will after this come to their senses, and that everybody will henceforward realise the difference between India and England, and the English and the Indians.

TRIPURA PRAKASH,
for the first fortnight
of Sravan, 1302 B.S.

The Tippera Charitable Dispensary.

to look to the matter.

34. The *Tripura Prakash* for the 1st fortnight of Sravan says that the in-door patients in the Tippera Charitable Dispensary are treated like dogs and cats by the compounders. The doctor in charge of the dispensary is requested

HITAVADI,
Aug. 2nd, 1895.

35. A correspondent of the *Hitavadi* of the 2nd August draws attention to the inconveniences which are felt by passengers on the East Indian and Eastern Bengal railway lines:—

- (1) There is no separate ticket stall for third class female passengers at Howrah, as there is in Sealdah.
- (2) At Sealdah there is only one man for selling tickets to third class passengers, and the number is not increased even on exceptional occasions when there is a great rush of passengers.
- (3) There are no native ticket collectors at Howrah, which often brings native passengers to trouble.
- (4) On the East Indian Railway line there are no zanana waiting rooms except at very big stations.
- (5) On both railways, carriages are overcrowded on the occasion of festivals when there is a rush of passengers.

SANJIVANI,
Aug. 3rd, 1895.

36. A correspondent of the *Sanjivani* of the 3rd August complains against the running of trains on the Bengal Provincial Railway line. The Company seems to have an eye to money-making more than to the convenience of the passengers. The new arrangement for the running of trains is a great hardship to those who live in places nearer to Tarkessur than to Mugra. Formerly the Company made arrangements for the running of trains by which passengers for Calcutta could change either at Tarkessur or at Mugra as best suited their convenience. But now all passengers have to change at Mugra. This causes the passengers great inconvenience as well as some loss of money in the shape of excess fare. Moreover, under the new arrangement, passengers cannot reach Howrah before 12 o'clock, while according to the old they could reach that place before 10 o'clock.

SOM PRAKASH,
Aug. 5th, 1895.

37. The *Som Prakash* of the 5th August is of opinion that the prevalence of lawlessness on the East Indian Railway line is due to the Company's partiality for European and Eurasian ticket collectors. When natives were employed as ticket collectors incidents like the Assensol rape case did not take place.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Aug. 7th, 1895.

38. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 7th August suggests that since there is no remedy against oppression by European railway employés, Hindus and Musalmans will do well not to travel in trains with the

women of their families. It is only since the construction of railways in this country that people have begun to take their families to their places of occupation. In pre-railway days people used to visit their families only once a year during the Puja vacation. Why should not this be done now? Our women are the goddesses of our households, and it is unbearable that they should be gazed upon by lustful eyes, and quite maddening that they should be dishonoured.

TRIPURA PRAKASH,
for the first fortnight
of Sravan, 1302 B.S.

39. The *Tripura Prakash* for the 1st fortnight of Sravan says that the Tippera District Board has determined to construct, in deference to the wishes of Government, 20 feeder roads communicating with railways, at an estimated cost of two or two and-a-half lakhs of rupees. There would have been nothing to object to this if the District Board had been in a position to complete the roads the construction of which it has already taken in hand, or to keep in proper repair those which have been already completed. As a matter of fact, the Board is not able to do this. The road from Sarail to the Ajabpore steamer station, which was commenced five or six years ago, has not yet been provided with the four or

five culverts it requires, and is therefore as good as useless in the rainy season when the need of roads is most felt. The same is the case with the road from Sarail to Chunta which was commenced even earlier. To construct more roads under these circumstances would be pure waste of money.

Again, it should be considered that, unlike the North-Western Provinces, East Bengal, which is intersected by a net-work of rivers, requires canals more than roads. But the old *khals* are being silted up to the great inconvenience of trade and traffic and to the great injury of agricultural operations. The Lawaiib *khal*, for instance, which is as it were, the only high road between North and South Tippera, is now navigable only in the rainy season. No one, however, says anything about the clearing of this and other important *khals*.

(h)—General.

40. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* of the 30th July says that it is in contemplation to transfer the office of the Commissioner of

The proposed transfer of the office of the Burdwan Commissioner.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,

July 30th, 1895.

the Burdwan Division from Burdwan to Hooghly. It is, however, difficult to understand why a transfer should be made. The Commissioner's office has been in Burdwan since the time the post of the Commissioner was created. When the malaria epidemic first broke out in Burdwan, the Commissioner's office was transferred to Hooghly, and for some time also to Howrah. But Mr. Beames retransferred the office to Burdwan, and after that the question of transfer was not raised before Mr. Toynbee, who disliked Burdwan and proposed to permanently transfer the Commissioner's office to Hooghly. His proposal was not, however, accepted by the Lieutenant-Governor who, it was understood at that time, settled the question once for all by laying it down that the office should never be transferred from Burdwan. One cannot therefore understand why the question of transfer should be raised again. Moreover, there is nothing in favour of Hooghly. Hooghly is as much malaria-stricken as Burdwan, and, as a matter of fact, the sanitary condition of Burdwan is far better than that of Hooghly. If the Commissioner's office is to be transferred from Burdwan on the score of its insanitary condition, it should be transferred to a healthier place like Calcutta or Darjeeling. But the Government is not certainly going to sanction a proposal like that. It is also difficult to understand why the Commissioner's office alone should be transferred from Burdwan. There are many public offices located in Burdwan, and if Burdwan is really so insanitary as to require the transfer of the Commissioner's office, why not transfer all the other offices too? It is to be hoped that the Commissioner himself will reconsider his proposal and give up the idea of transferring his office.

41. The *Hubbul Mateen* of the 31st July says that the evils from which India under British rule.

India suffers are all due to England. England lives a comfortable life by putting her vast empire

HUBLUL MATEEN,

July 31st, 1895.

of India and its people to all sorts of difficulties. The people of India, partly in fear and partly in despair of a remedy, bear in gloomy silence every burden which is laid upon them by England. It is true that the people of India owe a debt of gratitude to England for its great exertion to familiarise them with English literature. This is a qualification indispensable to office-seekers, but utterly inadequate to remove the miseries of the millions. The fact is that the English people entertain a doubt about the loyalty of the natives in times of emergency. This is why, while giving appointments to the Indians, the English Government is wresting from them all power. The wealth and fertility of India have been proverbial from time immemorial. Who ever thought that this vast empire would one day be a playground for the English people, and that the diadems of her princes would become playthings for English babies? Scarcely has the Indian exchequer paid off the expenses of the Chitral war, when India is called upon to meet a new demand in the shape of the cost of the Afghan visit.

42. The *Hitavadi* of the 2nd August says that most people having occa-

Babu Pratap Chandra Ghosh,
Registrar of Assurances, Calcutta.

sion to come to the office of Babu Pratap Chandra Ghosh, Registrar of Assurances, Calcutta, are dis-

satisfied with him for his rude behaviour towards them. The other day the Babu told a party who came to have a document registered that it would require a stamp of Rs. 35. The pleader for the party who was present in the office, protested and pointed out that under the Stamp

HITAVADI,
Aug. 2nd, 1895.

Act the deed would require a stamp of a much smaller value. Pratap Babu did not listen to this, but replied:—"I do not know the law, I have never read it. You must put as much stamp as has been directed by my master." The party had no alternative but to put the required stamp. But on going to register the deed, which was done before a subordinate officer, they were told that they had simply thrown away money by putting a stamp of such high value upon the deed, which did not require a stamp of greater value than Rs. 5. It is hoped that after this case, Government will teach a lesson to the rude and worthless man who is now Chief Registrar in Calcutta.

HITAVADI,
Aug. 2nd, 1895.

43. A correspondent of the same paper complains of the order of the Postal Superintendent of Hooghly requiring the letter-box in Santoshpur to be cleared on alternate days, because the arrangement causes serious inconvenience to the people of the village. As the box is now cleared, only eight or ten letters are found at each clearing; but if the box were cleared every day, more than a dozen letters could be found in it as was proved when the box was so cleared.

The post-office at Raghbati is situated in an out-of-the-way place and ought to be removed to Bajna, which is situated in the middle of the villages served by it. There is only one postman attached to this post-office, and this is a source of great inconvenience and loss to the people, as some villages under the post-office are about five miles distant from Raghbati.

HITAVADI.

44. The same paper has the following:—

The rigour of the administration. One fails to understand how the District Magistrates dare to take such liberty with the Honorary Magistrates as constantly urging them to be rigorous in the administration of criminal justice, censuring them if the results of the cases tried by them fail to give them satisfaction, and expressing disapprobation of their proceedings if they allow a large number of compromises. We do not believe that the District Magistrates do all this of their own motion — one is rather inclined to believe that the District Magistrates are so hard upon the Honorary Magistrates in consequence of pressure put upon them from above. There is no questioning that, whether the Lieutenant-Governor knows it or not, the administration of criminal justice is becoming more and more rigorous. After the Lieutenant-Governor's own remark in the Purulia riot case that somebody ought to have been punished for the day's work; it is a wonder that the subordinate officials do not act with harshness and severity in every matter.

Divisional Commissioners and District Magistrates being the real rulers of the country, any harshness and severity in their conduct, whether owing to themselves or to pressure from above, must discredit the British Government. But, minding only their day's work, the officials take no note of this. There may be honourable exceptions here and there, but the majority of officials appear too anxious to make displays of their power. The possession of power fires their temper, and when they find themselves enabled to exercise it in an irresponsible manner upon a meek people like the Indians, they naturally grow severe.

It has been seen from Mr. Grierson's resolution (Report on Native Papers for 3rd August, paragraph 9), that the authorities are not much in favour of compromises in criminal cases. And here is a letter from the Sub-divisional Officer of Ranaghat in the Nadia district, circulated among the local Honorary Magistrates, impressing upon the latter the importance of keeping in mind that fines levied upon convicted persons should not be too light, because they are a source of revenue, and ought to recoup to a certain extent the expenditure incurred for the administration of criminal justice. We will say nothing as to whether the circular has been issued by the Magistrate of his own motion or under orders from superior authority. We publish it below, and leave it to the reader to draw his own conclusion therefrom:—

CIRCULAR.

To

The Honourary Magistrates, Ranaghat Sub-division.

Ranaghat, the 20th July 1895.

SIR,

It has frequently been brought to my notice that the fines inflicted by the Benches in cases under Act V of 1861, and under the Municipal bye-laws

are extremely inadequate and scarcely to be considered as deterrent. Experience must have pointed out to you that under such circumstances these offences are not in the least checked. A lamentable want of discrimination is also evinced by some Benches where an uniform fine of four annas is inflicted for any of these offences irrespective of its gravity or the position and circumstances of the offender. I also beg to point out to you that these fines are a source of revenue to the Municipalities, and both the Government and the Municipalities have to keep up expensive establishments for the prevention, detection and prosecution of these offences, and it is but natural to expect that they should be compensated to a reasonable extent by these fines. I trust, therefore, in pointing out these facts to you, that you will be warned against such misplaced clemency and want of discernment.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

K. C. DE,

Joint-Magistrate, Ranaghat.

This is how the Honorary Magistrates are treated. We will now give an instance of the kind of treatment which Honorary Municipal Officers receive at the hands of the authorities. In a Municipality not very distant from Calcutta, the Commissioners, with the approval of the Civil Surgeon, appointed a servant in their municipal dispensary. The Commissioner of the Presidency Division, however, considered such a servant unnecessary, dismissed the man, and wrote to the Chairman ordering him to pay out of his own pocket the salary of the servant for the period he had been employed, and requiring intimation of such payment to be given to him. The Chairman was a man of pluck, and he wrote in reply:—

“Instead of saying to us unpleasant things, Government should be grateful for the gratuitous services we render it. I will not pay the servant's salary out of my own pocket, because no man with a sense of self-respect can do that. I want to know under what section of what law I have been asked to pay.” But it is not every Municipal Chairman that has the courage to reply to a Commissioner in this way.

In conclusion we will make one humble representation to Lord Elgin and to the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal. Is it not the duty of both of you, representatives of Her Majesty as you are, to take notice of and check the insolent conduct of the subordinate officers? It is true you are only human beings and are not gifted with the intuitive power of knowing everything that takes place in this vast empire. But do you not fail in your duty by shutting your eyes and stopping up your ears when oppressions committed by the officials are brought to your notice? You ought not to have accepted the responsible office of rulers of a country if you cannot enquire into the grievances of the subject people when your attention is drawn to them. The rigour of the administration of criminal justice is crushing the very life out of the subject people, and if you, representatives of Her Most Gracious Majesty as you are, do not protect them, where shall they find protection?

45. The same paper also says that some time ago, Mr. McBlaine, Deputy

Mr. McBlaine, Deputy Commissioner of Nowgong in Assam, gained quite a notoriety by prohibiting the firing of pistols and guns in the town. He has now issued a notice requiring those who wear the native dress to leave off their shoes when entering his Court. The people of Nowgong having submitted a petition to the Commissioner protesting against this order, and the Commissioner having called for an explanation from Mr. McBlaine, the latter wrote as follow:—

“People have been forbidden to fire arms and bombs in the town, save under orders and at times and places allowed. It is impossible to have guns fired off in a town at the will of the owners. It would not be permitted in any civilized town.

HITAVADI.
Aug. 2nd, 1895.

"No respectable native in native dress would think of entering an European's presence wearing his shoes. Europeans remove their hats in court and people in turbans and dhotis remove their shoes as a rule, which rule is observed by self-respecting natives in the parts of India with which I am acquainted. My own revenue Nazir invariably does so. In conclusion I may point out that to notice complaints so purely frivolous and vexatious as those contained in this petition is dangerous in the extreme in a district like Nowgong, which has fallen into a state of insubordination, the causes of which are not far to seek and which require to be firmly handled. I strongly and respectfully protest against being called on to answer complaints brought by malcontents who may happen to be displeased with my orders.

F. McBLAINE,
Deputy Commissioner."

One does not know what country Mr. McBlaine comes from, that in the name of civilisation he should stop the firing of guns, and prohibit people from coming into his court with their shoes on, and also become fired if a complaint is preferred against his improper orders. It is necessary that Mr. McBlaine should for some time be placed under a strict superior, if he is to be cured of his capriciousness. It is clear from the notice he has issued, and the explanation he has submitted, that he is quite unacquainted with the manners and customs of respectable people in India, or he would not cite the case of his Nazir. Perhaps his next act will be to try to improve the manners of native society upon the model of the manners of his peons and chaprasis.

But Mr. McBlaine should remember that Bengal is not the Fiji Island, nor is it the government of Seraj-ud-dowla under which he serves. Since the time when Seraj-ud-dowla ruled this province, when the marriage of a horse was celebrated with *eclat*, and when an emperor wanted to marry a male, the world has made vast strides towards civilisation. Under the rule of Her Majesty Empress Victoria, and under the British Government, official vagaries will not be long tolerated.

It is to be hoped that the Lieutenant-Governor will soon rescind the unjust orders passed by Mr. McBlaine, and transfer that officer from Nowgong. Conduct like his, if not checked, will destroy the peace of the entire province of Assam.

46. As a Committee is going to sit in Simla, observes the *Bangavasi* of the proposed Toll Committee. the 3rd August, to consider the advisability of revising the rules relating to the collection of tolls, the defects in the present toll arrangement should be pointed out. There ought to be uniformity in all rules relating to the collection of tolls. In the Sarupganj toll-station (in the Nadia district), passenger boats bound for Nadia have not to pay toll on their return if they come back to Sarupganj within twenty-four hours. In the Krishnaganj-Hanskali toll station (in the same district), however, no such consideration is shown. The Toll Committee should take this anomaly into its consideration. There should be uniformity in the toll regulations.

III.—LEGISLATIVE.

47. The *Gaya Punch* of the 29th July says that of late Muhammadan marriage and dowry suits have become very frequent in Bihar. As in such cases the parties fail to produce any written document to prove celebration of marriage according to Muhammadan law, judicial officers have to rely solely upon the witnesses who solemnise the ceremony. In most cases, therefore, they fail to arrive at a proper decision. Such being the case, the authorities ought to enforce Act I (B.C.) of 1876, relating to the registration of Muhammadan marriages and divorces. It is hoped that Khan Bahadur Delawar Hossein, B.A., present Inspector-General of Registration, will condescend to comply with this request.

48. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* of the 30th July thus concludes an article on the Drainage Bill. The Government has to spend crores of rupees on frontier fortifications. The Chitral Expedition has already cost it one crore

and-a-half, and the army quartered in Chitral is costing it about Rs. 75,000 every day. The compensation allowance to its European servants is costing the Government a crore of rupees a year, while the depreciation of the value of silver has caused a heavy drain on the Indian finances. The Government is therefore hard put to it in making the two ends meet, and can ill afford to spare anything for the purpose of improving the sanitary condition of the Bengal villages. The people, too, are not in a flourishing condition, and they would rather prefer death from malaria to the eternal want of peace and life-long anxiety to keep body and soul together. The imposition of a new tax will simply make life intolerable in the mafassal.

49. The *Charu Mihir* of the 30th July has the following remarks on the Sanitary Drainage Bill:—

The Sanitary Drainage Bill.

Sanitary Drainage Bill:—

We have more than once said that the roads which are constructed by the District Boards, and the railroads being the principal obstacles to the free drainage of the province, it is the District Boards and the Railway Companies who should be exclusively made liable for the cost of drainage works. But Government will not hear this. The District Boards and the Railway Companies will go on obstructing drainage, and a third agency, namely, the proposed drainage authorities, will occupy itself with improving it. Construction and destruction will thus go on without cessation, and none but a perpetual worker like Sir Charles Elliott can devise the scheme which makes this possible. The people of Bengal would have enjoyed some peace, if His Honour had been a quieter and lazier man.

Government believes that obstructed drainage is the cause of the various diseases from which the people of Bengal suffer. This may or may not be, but it is certain that people suffer greatly for want of good drinking water. No one will admit the necessity of improved drainage as a means of ameliorating the health of the people, if it is not first proved that a good water-supply cannot effect that object. Government has been ill-advised in taking the drainage scheme in hand without first getting the District Boards to remove the water grievance. And what guarantee is there that the proceeds of the proposed drainage cess will not, like the proceeds of the road cess, be diverted from their legitimate object? It was an evil moment for the people of Bengal when Sir Charles Elliott conceived the idea of the Bill, under which a new tax will be imposed upon them. The native papers and associations protested against the Bill; but their protest only served to confirm Sir Charles Elliott in his resolution to pass it. He has turned a deaf ear to all adverse representations. But he should know that the passing of the Bill will be a glaring instance of the oppression of the weak by the strong, and will constitute an indelible stain on His Honour's name.

50. The Members of the Bengal Legislative Council, observes the *Sulabh Dainik* of the 1st August, do not stand in need of being initiated into the principles of indigo cultivation, nor do they require any training in horsemanship. Mr. Hennessy, therefore, whose sole qualification seems to be that he is an indigo-planter and a dashing horseman, has nothing to recommend him for a seat in the Legislative Council. As a Member of the Legislative Council Mr. Hennessy might be good enough for interpellation work, but interpellation is not the be-all and end-all of a Councillor's life, and Mr. Hennessy is simply innocent of the intricacies of the law, the making of which is the most important business done in a Legislative Council. The *Englishman*, which speaks highly of Mr. Hennessy as an indigo-planter and first-rate horseman says nothing about his literary or other accomplishments. To be an Englishman is to be a learned man is not, however, a self-evident fact, and from the point of view of legal attainments and literary qualifications, there is very great difference between Mr. Hennessy and Rai Suryyanayan Singh Bahadur.

It is also difficult to understand why Englishmen in India should covet the few seats in the Legislative Council which have been kindly thrown open to election. The Englishman at home is a pattern of impartiality and high-mindedness; the Englishman in India is a selfish creature. Why otherwise should the Englishmen in India, who have many friends to defend their interests, should be so anxious to deprive the natives of a few seats in the Legislative Council, and why should the English officials, too, lend them their support?

CHARU MIHIR,
July 30th, 1895.

SULABH DAINIK,
Aug. 1st, 1895.

In the matter of Council elections, the Lieutenant-Governor has hitherto given proof of impartiality and uprightness, and it is to be expected that in the case of the Bhagalpur election he will not deviate from the path of duty.

BHARAT MITRA,
Aug. 2nd, 1895.

51. The *Bharat Mitra* of the 2nd August ascribes the resignation by Sir John Lambert of his membership of the Bengal Council to Sir Charles Elliott's non-interference with rain-gambling in Calcutta, and says that it is

rumoured that Sir John will also resign his post of Police Commissioner. The writer is glad that the people of Bengal have been fortunate enough to get Nawab Syed Amir Hossein, C.I.E., as Sir John's successor in the Bengal Council. It is hoped that the Nawab, a veteran Magistrate of the Calcutta Police Court, will spare no effort to do good to the Calcutta community and to the people of Bengal at large. It is true that the Nawab has been elected to represent the Musalmans of Bengal. But it is not too much for the Hindus of his native country (Bihar) to expect that the Nawab Bahadur will never forget them. Among the members of the Council the venerable Syed is the only gentleman who is fully aware of the character of the different communities in this country as well as the merits and demerits of the Calcutta Police. There is hardly one among the members who have been recruited from among raias and zamindars who have mastered the principles of English legislation in India. These gentlemen are, therefore, of no use in the Council. But his long incumbency as a Magistrate of Calcutta has made the Nawab Saheb a perfect master of law. In fact, the Legislative Council requires the services of much tried men and not of respectable title-holders. The Nawab has no second, so far as these qualifications are concerned.

HITAVADI,
Aug. 2nd, 1895.

52. The *Hitavadi* of the 2nd August says that the Maharaja of Darbhanga and Babu Surendranath Bannerjee will most probably be candidates for election to the Supreme Council. It is likely that there will be some fight

between them. The appearance of the Maharaja's name in the English papers as the most likely man on the very day following that on which Surendranath's name was first talked of in this connection, and the denunciation of Surendranath in certain papers as an enemy of his country are sufficient indications that efforts are being privately made to get the Maharaja elected.

The Maharaja is not by any means an incompetent man. But people would prefer Surendranath to him on the ground that in the Viceregal Council the Maharaja may frequently have to speak with reserve, that it may be injurious to the Maharaja's personal interests to be present in the Council on every occasion, and that Babu Surendranath will be able with far smaller personal sacrifice to achieve greater good for his country than the Maharaja. The Maharaja cannot afford to incur the displeasure of Government, but official displeasure will do no harm to Surendra Babu. The reason why the *Englishman* and the *Indian Daily News* are opposed to Surendra Babu's return is that they would not like to see him take up Mr. Mehta's place in the Council. It is to be hoped that the non-official members of the Bengal Council will elect the man whom the country expects them to elect.

HITAVADI.

53. The same paper says that it will not be necessary to pay equal attention to the drainage of every part of the province or to construct drainage works on the same scale everywhere. It will have to be settled

whether the people of one part of the province should be made liable for the cost of works constructed in another. Take, for instance, the country south of the Damodar river. The *bund* on the south bank of the river having, by order of Government, been breached in several places, the whole country from the south-east of Burdwan town to the bank of the Rupnarain river is flooded every year, and the greater part of it remains submerged for six months in the year. As a consequence malaria rages violently. As soon, therefore, as the Drainage Act comes into operation, Government should direct its attention to the drainage of this tract. So far as the writer is aware, the breaches referred to have been made solely with the object of keeping the *bund* on the northern bank, which protects the East Indian Railway line from invasion by the river, perfectly secure. It is, therefore the duty of Government to bear the cost of the drainage itself, or throw it on the East Indian Railway Company. It is

hoped that the members of the Lieutenant-Governor's Council, and especially Mr. R. C. Dutt, will keep an eye to this. It will be the height of tyranny to charge the cost of drainage construction in this tract upon the people.

54. The *Banganiwasi* of the 2nd August contains a cartoon in which Sir Charles Elliott is represented as laying the burden of a sanitary drainage cess on the back of a poor and emaciated Bengal raiyat already groaning

under the weight of the zamindar's rent, the road cess, the public works cess, and the zamindar's abwabs. A native member of the Legislative Council described as a representative of the people is shown as holding up his hand and addressing words of consolation to the raiyat. The following is a translation of the letter press:—

The raiyat.—Dohai Lat Saheb. Do not lay a fresh burden on this frame emaciated through starvation. This time the back will break.

The people's representative.—My dear fellow, take it; it is only a very small sheaf added to a huge load. When the sanitary drainage cess is imposed, you will be cured of your malaria and restored to strength and will earn more money.

The raiyat.—Bravo, my boy. It is only for such qualifications as these that you pose as the people's representative. O! O!

55. The same paper writes as follows:—

Surendranath and the Drainage Bill. As Babu Surendranath sits in the Legislative Council as the representative of the people, it must

be taken for granted that he is fully acquainted

with their crying wants and grievances. The question is—Is water or drain the most crying want of the people? One who has the least experience of village life must say without any fear of contradiction that it is water. It is scarcity of water that is about to turn the picturesque villages in Bengal into inhospitable deserts. Disease, premature death, and depopulation of villages, all these are due to scarcity of water and to that alone. But Babu Surendranath, instead of trying to remove this crying want of the people, instead of inducing the Government to legislate for the improvement of village water-supply, servilely played himself into the hands of the officials, sang to their tune, echoed their opinions, and supported the measure for the improvement of the drainage system of Bengal. Was this worthy of a patriot? Babu Surendranath of course says that he supported the Drainage Bill, but did not support the proposal to impose a drainage tax. But Babu Surendranath is not a fool; and he ought to have known that the Government was not prepared to disgorge the road cess which it had swallowed, and that it was not the policy of the present Government to pay anything out of the public exchequer for the improvement of the health of the people. This being the case, Babu Surendranath ought to have known that the Government would have to impose a tax in order to provide itself with the necessary means of placing the drainage of the country on a more satisfactory footing.

Babu Kesub Chandra Sen used to regard Jesus Christ as a great man, but he denied his divinity. When once questioned by the late Rev. Lalbehari De as regards the authority for his opinion, he referred to the Bible. He was at once told that the same was also the authority for the divinity of Christ, and he was not justified in accepting the authority in part. The officials have accepted half of Babu Surendranath's opinion, and have rejected the other half. Babu Surendranath ought to have foreseen that this would actually happen. If he did not know this, his intelligence is not certainly commendable. If knowing this he has acted against his conviction, he is a traitor to his country. The special pleading of the *Indian Minor* or the certificates of a few mufassal Municipal Commissioners cannot white-wash his guilt. His countrymen expected a good deal from Babu Surendranath, but he has sorely disappointed them.

56. The *Sanjivani* of the 3rd August unfavourably criticises the Government's reply to the Hon'ble Babu Surendra Nath

The Bhagalpur election.

Banerjee's interpellation regarding the conduct of

Messrs. Phillips and Stack in connection with the Bhagalpur election. If it is true that Mr. Phillips recommended Mr. Hennessy by way of expressing his private opinion, why did he issue a general circular? As regards Mr. Stack, the Government thinks that he too like Mr. Phillips committed an act of

BANGANIVASI,
Aug. 2nd, 1895.

BANGANIVASI

SANJIVANI,
Aug. 3rd, 1895.

indiscretion by expressing any opinion in public or in private in the merits of the two rival candidates. But can the Government say that as in the case of Mr. Phillips, Mr. Stack's subordinates consulted his opinion? Would Mr. Phillips or Mr. Stack have issued a circular to his subordinates if Mr. Hennessy had not stood as a candidate? It cannot be gainsaid that Mr. Phillips as well as Mr. Stack is responsible for the failure of the Bhagalpur election, and the Government ought to have publicly censured their conduct.

DARSAK,
Aug. 4th, 1895.

57. The *Darsak* of the 4th August says that it is generally believed that the Maharaja of Darbhanga has been appointed to Bengal representation in the Supreme Council. the Bengal Council with the object of opposing Babu Surendra Nath Banerjee's election for the Supreme Council. The attitude of the Maharaja of Darbhanga too is not without significance in this respect. It will be a sad thing if a quarrel breaks out between two men, both of whom are sincere well-wishers of their country and of the congress movement. But neither the Maharaja nor Babu Surendra-nath appears inclined to give up an inch to his opponent.

DACCA GAZETTE,
Aug. 5th, 1895.

58. The *Dacca Gazette* of the 5th August would advise the advocates of the reduction of Hindu marriage expenses to properly diagnose the disease before seeking a remedy for it. Some time ago high prices had to be paid for girls, so that even respectable men had to remain bachelors. How is it that the tide has turned within these few short years? The reason of this change is not that the number of girls has increased, but that the number of youths who have received English education—the only class of bridegrooms that is now much in request in the matrimonial market—is far short of the demand. With a larger supply of this commodity its present high price will go down, and as English education spreads more and more widely in this country, the larger will become the supply. Already people appear to be less charmed with the gloss and glitter of English education than before.

A reform that is introduced by force does more harm than good. Merit will always have, and ought always to have, its reward, or people will not be spurred on to exert themselves to the utmost of their power. In the matrimonial market, as in every other, competition will always prevail, and wealth learning and social rank will always fetch the highest prices. It would be wrong on the part of social leaders to fix one uniform price upon all articles good, bad and indifferent.

SULABH DAINIK,
Aug. 7th, 1895.

59. The *Sulabh Dainik* of the 7th August considers it highly improper for the Lieutenant-Governor to have called the memorialists against the Drainage Bill. memorialists against the Sanitary Drainage Bill. "poor puppets." Why should a man be so vain when he knows that his position will last only for a short time?

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

DARUSSALTANAT
AND URDU GUIDE,
Aug. 1st, 1895.

60. The *Darussultanat* and *Urdu Guide* of the 1st August says that the Treatment of Mussalmans by the Cashmere Council. eighty lakhs of Musalmans living in Cashmere have fallen victims to the cruelty of the Hindu Council in that State. According to the Punjab papers, the Hindu Council has ordered the dismissal of all Musalman *amla* from the Cashmere Court, and has begun to interfere with the religion of Musalmans.

TAIPURA PRAKASH,
for the first fortnight
of Sravan 1892 B.S.

61. The *Tripura Prakash* for the first fortnight of Sravan has the following:— The financial administration of Tippera. The administration of Tippera by the Thakurs is a fine thing to hear and talk of, but the real administration of the State is in quite other hands. The *Yuvaram* is the ostensible head of the Finance Department. We quote the following from a correspondent's letter that was published by the *Indian Minor* in 1891, as the most faithful picture that we could give here of his body and mind:—

"The chief and attractive figure in the State is the Royal Prince, viz., the Jubraj, who is a charming young man of forty. How prince-like, how right royal his looks are! As the Royal Prince passes by, his neck gently stooping and with somewhat quick, though majestic and gentle steps, he seems to be like modesty and simplicity incarnate, and captivates, as it were, the gazing

multitude who crowd to see their amiable prince. Whoever has got one glance of him, cherishes a hope to see him again. But his features betray a wounded heart and a subdued power. His amiable gravity, combined with a slight pallor of melancholy, gives to his appearance a peculiar and yet charming phase which instinctively draws popular sympathy to his side. Such a noble mien cannot fail to have a good character, and it is not otherwise also with regard to the Prince. His private character does not belie his outward looks. Enmity he can have none, unless it be some got-up hostility of a political design. In addition to the noble virtues which he possesses in common with his father, he has an independence of mind; and he, like his brother, the Bara Thakur, tried, though without success, to save the State from the evil influence of the intriguing officials. But he is most loyal to his father, and dares not do anything in defiance of his Highness. We hope to see his loyalty rewarded."

Such is the princely Finance Minister of Tippera. By administering the finances on the principles that were introduced by Babu Umakanta Das, he is securing every year a larger revenue to the State. During the time Umakanta Babu acted as Minister, settlement work was conducted on the most expeditious and least cumbrous methods. There was under him no sacrifice of revenue in the way of settlement of mahals on unduly favourable terms for the benefit of the relatives of the royal family. In following these excellent principles the *Yuvaraj* is, however, hampered and obstructed at every step. Recently there has been a resettlement of the forest mahals. Babu Dinanath Sen increased the revenues of the State by taking those mahals from the hands of the royal family and leasing them to others at double the former revenue. But this time the mahals have again been leased to the relatives of the royal family against the wishes of the *Yuvaraj*. In this way revenue to the extent of 20,000 rupees annually has been sacrificed.

Again, the *Yuvaraj* nominated three Subdivisional Officers for the State. But his nominations proved highly offensive to those who now virtually wield all power in Tippera, as two of the persons nominated were inhabitants of Tippera. Though possessing the power of making, on his own authority, appointments to posts carrying salaries of Rs. 100 and less, the *Yuvaraj* was required to submit the nominations for the approval of the Maharaja, and the result was that his nominations were rejected and two Sub-Deputies were appointed. One of these two, a graduate, resigned his appointment while on his way to the capital to join it, probably on coming to know of the true state of affairs in the State. We for ourselves anticipated as much.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

62. The *Tripura Prakash* for the first fortnight of Sravan complains of Prospects of the crops in Tippera. devastating floods in Tippera, which have destroyed all hopes about the crops. It learns from a trustworthy correspondent writing from Brahmanbaria that in two days the water has risen three cubits higher.

TRIPURA PRAKASH,
for the first fortnight
of Sravan 1802B.S.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

63. A correspondent of the *Education Gazette* of the 26th July writes as follows:—

Four different types of Anglo-Indian officials.

During the rule of the East India Company, Englishmen were frequently heard to say that the sole purpose of their holding India was to enable the natives to fit themselves for the work of self-government, and that there would be no necessity of their governing the country when the latter had acquired that fitness. Now, this plea and profession has been false from the beginning. But it served a most useful purpose at that time. It showed, at any rate, that the work of Indian administration was to be carried on for a very high and noble purpose. The Indians were to be made fit for self-government, and in order that this result might be brought about, (1) all internal dissensions existing among the people were to be removed, (2) all possibilities of dispute in future were to be prevented, (3) measures were to be adopted to arrest their growing impoverishment, and (4) encouragement was to be given and facilities offered for enabling them

EDUCATION GAZETTE,
July 26th, 1895.

to think for themselves. In other words, the avowed purpose of the English occupation of India at that time was to make the Indians a united and friendly people, possessing a community of interests, wealth, and independence of character, English interests being subordinated to the attainment of that paramount object. Certain English writers of the time pointed to the United States in America, and said that England was not much a gainer so long as she held the States in subjection; but now that they had become independent, strong and wealthy, she was reaping immense advantages from her trade with America. The case, it was argued, would be the same regarding India. India, strong and wealthy, would bring more advantages to England than if she were weak, helpless, and a burden to the latter. The opinion was also expressed by some Englishmen that India was not at that time a source of strength but a cause of weakness to England.

Opinions like these are not, however, expressed nowadays. Englishmen have ceased to indulge in such talk, since the country came under the Khas Government of the Queen. There has been a change in their professions. It was probably the Duke of Argyll who, as the Secretary of State for India, first made the statement, that the first and foremost object of English policy was to permanently hold India in subjection. And this view has been since taken by almost every Englishman. In the course of a conversation with an Englishman on the subject, the writer was told by the latter with a smile—"Do you think that it is the object of the English Government in this country to make India fit for self-government?" The writer:—"I never believed it even in my dreams; what I think is that the country may be well governed if the Government keep some such high and noble object steadily before it. Jesus Christ said—'Try to be perfect like God.' Of course, nobody can ever be so, but many find it possible to do themselves immense good by trying to follow such an ideal. I therefore believe that Englishmen did well to make the statements regarding the object of their administration of India, which they used to do formerly, for such statements were likely to do good. But what do you think is the good of the declaration of policy which has now taken the place of those statements?" The Englishman:—"What is the present declaration of policy?" The writer:—"The opinion is now expressed, in season and out of season, that the interests of the Indian people require that in this country English ascendancy should be maintained in all matters, and that it is therefore absolutely necessary to maintain that ascendancy." The Englishman:—"Who says so?" The writer—"At this time, who does not? Grant Duff says, and he has printed and published it, that if an Englishman oppresses a native, he ought not to be punished for it. For it is the duty of the English Government to strongly impress the minds of the Indians with a fear of the Englishman. Now, far from condemning this opinion, the English people actually sent out Grant Duff as a Provincial Governor. But what will be the result if the opinion expressed by him is accepted and acted upon, and oppression of natives by Englishmen is allowed to increase? A kingdom cannot stand where justice is disregarded."

On another occasion the writer had a talk with a highly-placed English official on the subject of self-government. In the course of the conversation the latter remarked—"The time has not yet come when natives can be properly entrusted with any powers of self-government, for the authority of Government does not yet sit heavily on the people of the country." The writer:—"You seem to think that the fetters of Government should be made tighter, but we find them already so tight and rigorous that there is every fear of paralysis setting in." The officer from that time conceived a dislike for the writer. There can be no doubt, however, that he was a better man than Grant Duff. For while Grant Duff was an oppressor of the Indians, this officer was a patron of his own countrymen and only indirectly an oppressor.

The writer has come across another class of Englishmen. These are extremely opposed to the English education of natives. An Englishman of this class once observed to the writer:—"The natives who have received English education go about seeking service. They do not get it, and suffer great hardship in consequence. I wish English schools and colleges were fewer in number in this country." The writer:—"I wish they were more numerous." The Englishman:—"What if they were? They would only serve to swell

the number of candidates for employment in the country. * * * The writer:— “What would be the harm? An increase in the number of such candidates would only increase the chances of finding good men for vacant posts.” * * * The Englishman:—“How would that be likely to benefit the country?” The writer:—“What would the natives do then?” * * * The Englishman:—“They should take to trade and manufactures, open up new industries.” * * * The writer:—“O yes, how well does that suggestion become Englishmen. Even the Indian salt manufacture, a business which could be carried on without the expenditure of much capital or the application of any elaborate machinery, has been most unjustly destroyed by Englishmen in a most determined manner, and it is these Englishmen who are again persuading us to learn arts and manufactures. Stupendous is the shamelessness of Englishmen!” The Englishman thereupon hung down his head but was magnanimous enough not to take offence. On the contrary, he seemed more kindly disposed towards the writer than before.

Take the case of another Englishman. This gentleman served long in Bengal and had the reputation of being thoroughly acquainted with Bengali. An English officer from some other part of India came to Bengal, and asked this gentleman how he (the officer) could make himself popular with Bengalis. And the following is the advice which he got:—“Allow Bengalis to approach you and speak with you. They are greatly pleased if they are allowed to come near Englishmen and talk with them. This much will do. You need do no more.”

It will appear from the above that English officials are at present divided into four classes, namely, (1) the tyrannical, (2) the patrons of Englishmen, (3) the superficial observers, and (4) the slighters.

64. The *Bharat Mitra* of the 1st August has the following:—

The present Indian feeling about British rule. In the early days of British rule in this country we were very partial to it, and felt profound respect for the English character. We thought it an honour at that time to stand on terms of intimacy with Englishmen. But those days are gone. English rule has now attained its maturity, and we scrutinise it with a very critical eye. Railways, irrigation canals and telegraphic communications have rendered India so comfortable under English rule that none of us want to part with the English Government. For all that, however, we have begun to hate English rule on account of *zubberdustism* on the part of the English officials. We see generally that in making appointments to offices of trust and honour, Government gives preference to Christians over Indians. Court-fees are unbearably heavy, and the taxes are so numerous that the people are getting poorer day by day. It is the duty of the authorities to remove these defects of the Indian administration.

65. The *Darussaltanat* and *Urdu Guide* of the 1st August attributes the

Cause of the Hindu-Musalman quarrels. Hindu-Musalman quarrels to the hostile attitude which the Hindu papers have assumed towards the Musalmans. These papers always throw obstacles in the way of the progress of Musalmans, and oppose them in every matter in which the two communities are equally interested.

66. The *Hitavadi* of the 2nd August has the following:—

The disclosure regarding Sir Charles Elliott's application for extension. The *Sulabh Dainik* says that the Judicial Department of the Bengal Secretariat is in a panic on account of the disclosure made by the *Hitavadi*, regarding Sir Charles Elliott's application for extension and the Viceroy's order thereon. According to the same paper, His Honour has enquired of the Home Department, and the Home Secretary has employed detectives to obtain a clue to the offender.

What can we say to this? We published the news without giving the number and date of either the Lieutenant-Governor's application or the Viceroy's order. Still if the authorities are offended at the disclosure, we cannot help it. Detectives can only bring such an offence home to an innocent person. We will wait to see the result of the action taken by Government, but we fear nothing for ourselves.

RAVIVARAHAI
661 662 663

SAKTHI SIVASAMITTI
661 662 663

BHARAT MITRA,
Aug. 1st, 1895.

DARUSSALTANAT
AND URDU GUIDE,
Aug. 1st, 1895.

HITAVADI,
Aug. 2nd, 1895.

BANGANIVASI.
Aug. 2nd, 1895.

67. The *Banganivasi* of the 2nd August says that it is rumoured that Mr. Cotton will continue to be the Chief Secretary even after Sir Charles Elliott retires and Sir Alexander Mackenzie becomes the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal. The writer has no faith in this rumour. He thinks that on Sir Alexander becoming the Lieutenant-Governor, Mr. Cotton will be made the Chief Commissioner of Assam. This will surely prove disastrous to a few false patriots and hypocrites who look upon Mr. Cotton as their patron. But let them take heart. Mr. Cotton has a fair chance of being elevated to the Belvedere *musnud*. And then, well then—but no more of this matter.

68. The *Education Gazette* of the 2nd July does not yet know in what way the Government of Bengal proposes to help The Hindu marriage expense those who are anxious for a reduction of marriage expenses among Hindus. Government might pro-

hibit the people from expending large sums on amusements connected with marriage celebrations, but it could by no means bring down the price of bridegrooms, which is regulated by the law of demand and supply. Some people would have the Government reduce the price of bridegrooms by putting pressure upon them or their parents, in the way of refusing service under Government and public honours to those who would take large doweries from their wives' fathers, or dismissing them from Government service if they were already in it, or excluding them from University examinations and scholarships. This is not, however, a proposal which commends itself to the writer, because it is not entirely the fault of the bridegrooms or their fathers that bride's fathers have to give large dowries to their daughters on the occasion of their marriage.

University degrees have now taken the place of qualifications of birth and breeding which used formerly to be sought for in a bridegroom. There is consequently nowadays a run among brides' fathers after a boy who has done best at the University examinations. If the brides' fathers did not all run after the best University graduate, his price in the marriage market would necessarily be moderate. It is, therefore, a mistake to throw the entire blame of heavy marriage expenses on bridegrooms' fathers.

The meeting which was held the other day in the house of Babu Ramanath Ghosh under the presidency of Sir Maharaja Narendra Krishna Bahadur, with the object of inducing the Kayasthas of Calcutta and its neighbourhood to form a Society for retrenching marriage expenses by inflicting on any member who infringed its rules the punishment of excommunication, had undoubtedly a good object in view, but it is doubtful how far that object can be gained in the way in which the promoters of the meeting have set about gaining it.

SULABH DAINIK,
Aug. 6th, 1895.

69. The *Sulabh Dainik* of the 6th August has the following:—

Rather late in the day, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* is going into raptures

The *Amrita Bazar Patrika*'s over the "generous Government of Sir Charles new tone in regard to Sir Charles Elliott." The Lieutenant-Governor may have Elliott.

proved himself generous in a few solitary instances; he may have treated an individual here and an individual there with some degree of kindness; he may have of late given the editor of the *Patrika* some signal proof of his generosity, but are these solitary instances sufficient authority for the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* to characterise as generous the Government of Sir Charles, whom during the whole five years of his rule it lost no opportunity to denounce as the most retrograde ruler on the face of the earth? The *Amrita Bazar Patrika*'s conduct is really surprising. But will Sir Charles Elliott ever forget the wounds the *Patrika*'s poisoned shafts of ridicule and denunciation have inflicted on him? Why then this flattering praise, this vain attempt at reconciliation? Why this blowing hot and cold in the same breath? The Lieutenant-Governor is perhaps still writhing under the effect of the poison disgorged by the *Patrika*, as it were, through a hundred throats, and the public still remember how, in season and out of season, it criticised Sir Charles Elliott's Government in the most merciless way. When the *Statesman* ventured to defend Sir Charles Elliott's rule, the *Patrika* tried its best to laugh down that paper into contempt. When the Lieutenant-Governor was bold enough to call himself the *ma-bap* of the people, it wrote a long

series of articles to show the inconsistency of His Honour's profession. When Sir Charles Elliott issued the famous circular called by the *Patrika* "the no-conviction-no-promotion" circular, denunciation of the Lieutenant-Governor became its daily occupation, the burden of its thought, the theme of all its writings. The well-known remarks of the Lieutenant-Governor in the Purulia riot case almost lashed the *Patrika* into fury, and for several weeks it contained nothing but a very pungent criticism of His Honour.

Has the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* so soon forgotten all these? And what is the reason of its present lovely attitude towards Sir Charles Elliott? The *Patrika* is very much against what is called the "residential clause" in the Indian Councils Act. The Lieutenant-Governor, too, does not seem to be very much fond of this hard-and-fast rule. Is this happy coincidence, this agreement in opinion, the sole reason of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika's* sudden cooling down towards the Lieutenant-Governor? Does the editor of the *Patrika* ever expect to sit in the Legislative Council, and does he think that when that opportunity will arise the "residential clause" may stand in his way? And has he, in the hope that the Lieutenant-Governor will do away with that clause, suddenly discovered amiable traits in Sir Charles Elliott's rule? We cannot divine any other reason for the *Patrika's* sudden change of front. Sir Charles Elliott's rule has been far from liberal. Personally he may be a very generous man, but his Government is by no means generous. The promotion of Mr. Herald of Balludhan notoriety, the Lieutenant-Governor's policy towards the Balludhan police, Mr. Lang, Mr. Radice, and Satish Chandra Bose —has the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* forgotten all about these?

URIYA PAPERS.

70. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* of the 19th June has an appreciative notice of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, and observes that no one of His Honour's predecessors paid so many visits to Orissa as His

Sir Charles Elliott as regarded in Orissa. Honour has done during the brief period of five years.

71. The *Utkaldipika* of the 22nd June does not approve of the way in which the charges incurred in connection with the visit of the Amir's son to England are being credited to the Indian budget, and observes that England ought to pay a portion of the expenses. The writer regrets that the Secretary of State should ask the Indian Government to bear all these charges at a time when the finances of that Government are in a deplorable condition.

72. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* of the 26th June and 3rd July is sorry to point out that the condition of certain roads and bridges in the Balasore town is not good, and requests the Municipal authorities concerned to pay Roads and bridges in Balasore town. early attention to the same.

73. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* of the 3rd July regrets to point out that the Education in Keonjhur. state of education in the Keonjhur Tributary State in Orissa is not at all satisfactory, and that there is scarcely a dispensary to supply medicine to the inhabitants of that State, though Keonjhur is noted for the unhealthy character of its climate. The writer exhorts the Maharaja of Keonjhur to establish a certain number of schools and dispensaries in his killa without any more delay.

74. The *Utkaldipika* of the 6th July regrets to point out that there is inherent disorder in the management of the Kathjuri Cuttack. ferry ghat at Cuttack, as complaints from passengers crossing the river are numerous every year. The writer is informed that more than a thousand pilgrims were compelled to wait on the other side of the Kathjuri in this rainy season for a long time, and that they could only cross the river with great difficulty through the assistance of the Cuttack Municipality and the Cuttack Executive.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD,
June 19th, 1895.

UTKALDIPAKA,
June 22nd, 1895.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMBAD,
June 26th, 1895.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD,
July 3rd, 1895.

UTKALDIPAKA,
July 6th, 1895.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 10th August 1895.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,
Bengali Translator.

